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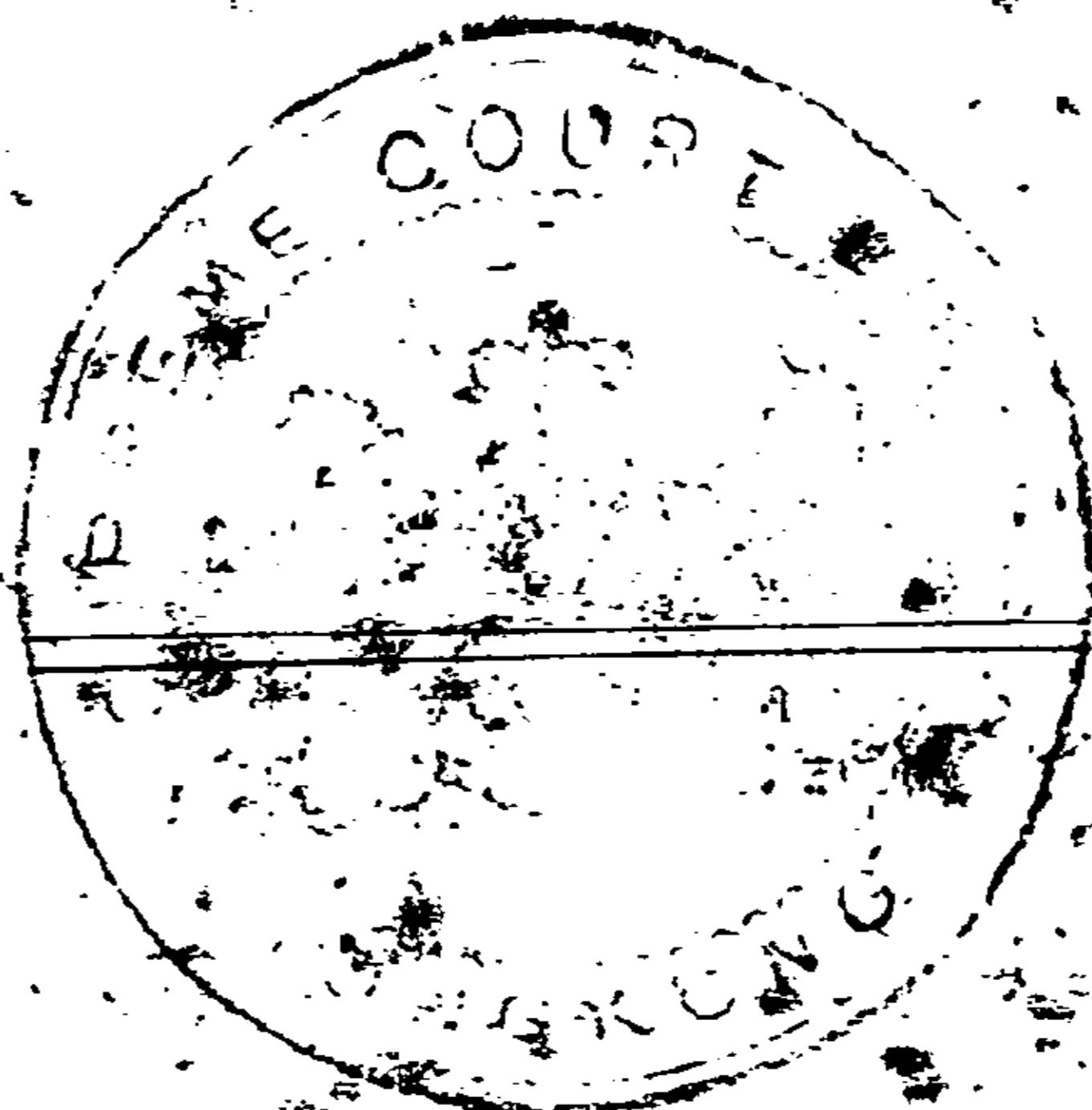
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AND

China Overland Trade Report.

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BIRTHS.

On 2nd January, at No. 2, Conduit Road, the wife of ALBERT ELLIS, of a son.

On 6th January, at N. 22, Robinson Road, the wife of H. TELLES FORGE, of a daughter.

MARRIAGE.

On 2nd January, at the Union Church, Hongkong, by the Rev. C. H. Hickling, ISABELLA J. CRAN, to Capt. C. STEWART, C. M. S. N. Co., Shanghai.

On 6th January, at the Union Church, by the Rev. C. H. Hickling, HENRY GEORGE ALFRED SIMS, to ELLA YOUNG, youngest daughter of the late Rev. JAMES YOUNG, of Belfast, Ireland.

DEATHS.

On 2nd January, 1905, at the Government Civil Hospital, Hongkong, EMMA FRANCISCA, aged 39 years.

On 2nd January, 1905, at the Peak Hospital, Hongkong, WILLIAM HENRY DALGLEISH, Jun., of the Hongkong and Shanghai Bank, second son of W. H. DALGLEISH, of Blackheath, London, aged 27 years.

EPITOME OF THE WEEK.

The New Year opened at Seoul in the midst of guerrilla warfare. Several casualties were reported.

Lieut. E. S. Brand, Royal Fusiliers, has been seconded for service with the Chinese Regiment of Infantry at Wei-hei-wei.

A Veterinary School is to be opened in connection with the military medical college in Peking, under Japanese instructors.

Col. C. H. Darling, R.E., who has been for five years on the War Office Staff, has been appointed C.R.E. at Hongkong, in succession to Col. L. F. Brown, R.E.

The bidding for the *Japan Herald*, which was put up for sale by auction last week, reached 12,000 yen, but the reserve price being higher the property was not sold.

Capt. P. Peacock, R.M.A., G. F. Muller, and J. Grover, R.M.L.I., have been appointed as Intelligence officers at Colombo, Hongkong, and Singapore respectively.

The O.S.K. steamer *Takao Maru* from Hankow and H.M.S. *Iphigenia* were in collision on Dec. 24th, in the river at Shanghai. The cruiser was moored at the time. No serious damage occurred.

The Mikado has conferred the Sixth Class of the Order of the Sacred Treasure on Mr. M. Noma, Consul-General for Japan at Hongkong. Mr. Noma has completed thirteen years of continuous Imperial service.

It is reported that the Douglas Steamship Co. have sold the s.s. *Hailoong* to Messrs. Jebson and Co. for between £18,000 and £19,000, and that the purchasers intend to place the vessel on the Haiphong run.

The *Peking and Tientsin Times* says the new winter head dress of the West Kents differs considerably from the old winter fur hat as used by the Fusiliers. The old style was much more adaptable to covering the face and ears.

The *Foochow Echo* reports that a Xmas tournament at Foochow was won by Miss Lloyd and Mr. Ardon (46 games), Mrs. Simester and Mr. G. L. Greig coming second with 40 games. Mrs. Moss was the hostess.

The Japanese Steamship Company have decided to build two steamships, each of 15,000 tons, at Nagasaki, instead of in England. The material for these boats, as well as for six others, has been purchased in the United States.

The *North Borneo Herald* says—A good deal of our timber is used in the dockyards in Hongkong, and in time to come coal of sufficiently high quality may be found in our extensive coal-fields to merit a share in supplying the coaling requirements.

Last month a fire broke out at Shimonoseki, spread rapidly, and before it could be got under control had completely destroyed about 150 dwellings and involved about 60 other houses in almost complete ruin. The loss was roughly estimated at Yen 600,000.

The *Dépêche Coloniale* states that a railway from Nanchwang to Kiukiang is about to be constructed at a cost of 4,000,000 taels: half of this sum will be subscribed by natives in Kiangsi, and the remainder will be met by a subsidy from the Government.

The Viceroy of Chihli Province has agreed to raise Ts. 600,000 toward the indemnity payment in gold, which amount is to be refunded from the sum due to Peking next year.

The name of Dr. Friedrich Gröne, a member of the Royal College of Surgeons, England, and licentiate of the Royal College of Surgeons, London, has been added to the register of medical and surgical practitioners qualified to practise medicine and surgery in the Colony.

H.M.S. *Ocean*, the flagship of Rear-Admiral Curzon-Howe, and H.M.S. *Centurion* arrived from Weihsien on Saturday. H.M.S. *Hogue*, the relief of H.M.S. *Cressy* on the China Station, arrived from Devonport on the same day. H.M.S. *Rosario* paid off and went into reserve on Saturday.

The s.s. *Anapa* arrived from Philadelphia on Jan. 5, with 4,800 tons of case oil for the Standard Oil Company. While she was voyaging through the Mediterranean, the oil in the main hold caught fire. Capt. Williamson put the conflagration out by flooding the hold. The cargo suffered to a considerable extent, but the vessel escaped damage.

Mr. John Goodnow, eight years American Consul at Shanghai, is going home on affairs connected with his administration. The Scottish Lodge of Freemasons, of which he was V.M.K. and local founder, gave him a banquet on Dec. 29th "to express their confidence in him, and to wish him a pleasant voyage and speedy return." He expects to be back in three months.

A correspondent of the *N.C. Daily News* in Shantung thus illustrates how China has still some things to learn:—"Your correspondent recently received a P. O. order for \$50 gold from the U.S.A. to be paid here in Laichoufu. Upon presenting the order at the C.I.P.O. the clerk looked greatly puzzled and scarcely knew what reply to make. He finally asked time in which to write to Chefoo for instructions. Am anxiously awaiting his reply."

Members of the Chinese Commercial Union have decided to appoint a deputation to wait upon the Managers of the Hongkong and Shanghai Banking Corporation, the Chartered Bank of India, Australia and China, the Banque de l'Indo-Chine, and the International Banking Corporation, requesting them not to call in the advances made against sovereigns and other securities, and to negotiate bills on Shanghai, Singapore, Manila and elsewhere, as before. It was feared that should the Banks raise the rate of interest, or give more margin, as in the event of securities having to be at once redeemed many of the smaller firms might suffer loss which they could not stand.

Hsi Liang, Viceroy of Szechuan, memorializes that telegraphic reports have been received from the local authorities of Chiao-Tzu Station, 400 li from Ta Chien Lu, a pass to Tibet, stating that two earthquakes took place on the 20th and 30th of the 7th Moon and another on the 2nd of the 8th Moon. Many houses including Lama temples, Yamens and guardhouses have fallen in ruins. Upwards of 400 lives, Chinese, Turfan, and Lamas were lost. Telegraphic instructions have been despatched to depute officials to proceed with money to the spot for burying the dead and relieving the wounded. Imperial sympathy has been shown in ordering alms to be given to the sufferers.

Hongkong Weekly Press.

HONGKONG OFFICE: 14, DES VŒUX ROAD CL.
LONDON OFFICE: 131, FLEET STREET, E.C.

ARRIVAL OF MAIL:

The German Mail arrived per the s.s. *Bayern*, on the 4th instant.

1904. A RETROSPECT.

(Daily Press, 31st December.)

We do not like that imagery which asks us at this time to think of the Old Year as dying, and the New as one coming to the birth. The simile is one easily buttressed by similar similes; but for our present purpose, and for the annually recurring purpose of all sensible business men, that of "taking stock," we prefer to regard A. D. 1904 as a stage of a journey. Thus, though the stage just ending may have been dreary, full of perils, or altogether pleasant: though the stage upon which we are about to enter may present an aspect dreadful or the reverse; it is profitable to regard the ending year, not as a corpse needing hasty burial, but as an experience from which to extract warnings or new hopes, as the case may require.

Last year, on the whole then, may be regarded as one affording a by no means unpleasant retrospect. The horrors of war have marked its course almost from beginning to end; but the trouble in the houses of Russia and Japan has had the good effect of helping to put the British house in order. The allusion is, of course, to the series of friendly understandings arranged with other Powers, which remarkable series has been attributed, correctly, no doubt, to the personal influence of His Majesty the KING. There have been alarmist rumours of one sort or another, only to be expected during such a year of unrest, but it is still right to assert, as is done elsewhere, that "our relations with other Powers continue friendly." The year began with a certainty of war. The number of those who failed to see its inevitability was small. In the issue with which we began the year, we declared that the question was, not "will there be war?" but "when will it begin?" A very few weeks sufficed to settle all such speculation; and a few more weeks startled the world into its first real sense of the potential qualities of a new Empire. It is hardly necessary to review events which have been kept fresh in our minds by succeeding ones: At present we are watching anxiously the desperate efforts of the losing side. Japan is paramount at sea, and while it is always unsafe to prophesy, the expectation is that even after the advent of the new Russian Armada, she will continue to hold the sea. On land the Russians are either penned up, as at Port Arthur, or driven to the northern confines of the province out of which Japan undertook to drive them. One question affecting our nation, raised by the current war, was, and is, that of our occupancy of Wei-hai-wei. Anxious enquiries were parried by the Government; but there is no probability that any eventuality will cause us to abandon the place. Our little affair with Tibet ripened during the year, and the result is supposed to have been entirely satisfactory. D squelching rumours have it that the *status quo ante bellum* remains, and that our troops will again have to face the frosty perils of the high Himalayas. That is for A.D. 1905 to settle; and with it, perhaps, some clearer understanding with Ku-sia as to the interests in those northern places where our lines have lately seemed so awkwardly to intersect. The political year was made remarkable by the development of Mr. JOSEPH CHAMBERLAIN's policy of fiscal reform. The noise of the great discussion reverberated in Hongkong, where we had debates, lectures, correspondence, and a plebiscite which "went the whole hog" in an overwhelming majority in favour of the ex-Colonial Secretary's ideas. The question of coolie transport to the South African mines in need of labour seems to have caused much more fuss at Home than

the circumstances required, but there were so many points of view that it was difficult to define the main issue. A most important item of local politics was that introduced by the petition of 270 Hongkong ladies in favour of the registration of servants. The gist of the answer, and the reason why nothing has yet been done, was Sir HENRY BLAKE's *non possumus*. It is to be hoped that the new Governor which 1904 gave us will not be daunted by the difficulties, but that he will, in 1905, see some way of showing that such a scheme is as possible as it is desirable. The registration of Chinese partnerships was another question raised during the year by Sir W. M. GOODMAN, who, by the way, went Home soon after. Of business done, we may express gratitude for the issue of Sir JOHN CAREINGTON's revised ordinances, and for the adoption of the Hill District Reservation Bill. There have been two shocking murders to blemish our year's retrospect, and several serious fires among many. Religious matters are presented in a favourable light by the laying of the foundation stones of two churches at Kowloon. The year will also be remembered as the year of the rebuilding of the fine old collegiate church of St. Paul at Macao.

The past year has not, when looked at commercially, been a satisfactory one. The Russo-Japanese war has not perhaps directly interfered much with the ordinary trade with China, but it has, generally speaking, had a malign and restrictive influence on operations, and so far as trade with Japan is concerned, has certainly been obstructive. Exchange, which last year played such tricks with business of all kinds, has this year been a less important factor, though its uncertainty still serves to impair confidence and limit operations to the supply of current wants. Although it has been far from steady, the demand rate fluctuating from 1/10 9-16 to 15-16 in January to 1/8 15-16 in April, rising again to 1/10 7-16 in August and falling again to 1/9 13-16 in September, it has on the whole had a hardening tendency, and at time of writing it has reached the highest point recorded in the year, namely, 1/11 9-16. No faith is, however, felt in the permanence of this improvement, and those interested in trade are not much inclined to act upon it. Until, therefore, a fixed exchange can be secured, either with the assistance of the Home Government, or by reason of China determining to place her currency on a gold basis, there can, we fear, be little chance of any solid improvement in trade taking place. The Yarn trade during the past year has shown a considerable falling off, and prices for both English and Bombay spinnings have fluctuated greatly owing to the abnormally high rate ruling for cotton during the greater part of the twelve months. The import of Indian grey yarn, as compared with that for 1903, declined some 23½ per cent. and sales by nearly 13½ per cent. respectively. In Cotton Piece goods there has been only a very moderate trade, and though demand improved after June, the slump in cotton has made dealers very anxious, and the market closes stagnant. The inquiry for Woollen Goods has been much restricted by the high rates, and though stocks are small, the market generally is quiet. A good business has, however, been done in blankets, chiefly for the north. The market for Metals has not, on the whole, been active, the demand for pig and bar iron being smaller than last year, while the consumption of lead, yellow metal and quicksilver also shows a decline, but a large business has been done in tins plates at remunerative prices. The Opium

trade has been characterised by heavy fluctuations, and owing to the speculative nature of the business it would be difficult to say whether it has proved remunerative or not. The trade has not been affected by the Russo-Japanese war. Prices generally have ruled higher than last year. The Flour trade, which has for many years been growing steadily in importance, has during the past year been less satisfactory than usual owing to the heavy stocks carried over and a considerable falling off in consumption. An improvement in demand has been apparent, however, during the latter months of the year. The Coal trade has to some extent felt the influence of the war; demand has been less brisk and prices for Japan varieties have ruled lower, less bunkering having been done by vessels passing through. The price of Cardiff has been maintained, but the trade in it has been smaller than last year. In Kerosene Oil there has not been much increase in the volume of the trade done, and the prices ruling in 1903 have not been maintained, those rates having been upheld through the supply being limited. The development of other oil fields in the United States and consequent augmented production has served to bring down rates very considerably, viz., from \$3.20 per case to \$2.60 per case. The prospects for the future point to further competition, since the Californian oil, which is now produced in great abundance, and has already reached the North China market, will enter the field here as a competitor during the year 1905. With regard to Exports, the trade has, save in one or two cases, been barely maintained. Tea has for some years been a slowly vanishing quantity, and the export of Macao and Canton teas has during the year under review shown a further reduction. In Silk the trade has been remunerative to exporters, though the volume of business was smaller than last year, and the losses then made have probably been recouped in 1904. Producers, however, are said to have found the year an unprofitable one. The Sugar trade in 1904 has been very satisfactory, demand having been good from most quarters, and prices, owing to the short crop of beet, have advanced considerably, yielding good profits to the refiners and exporters. In Sundries there has, on the whole, been a reduced trade, the export of matting, soy, preserved ginger, and essential oils having fallen off from various causes. The Freight market, which at the close of 1903 promised badly, greatly improved during the past year. Commencing in February, coastwise charters were effected at rising rates, which have been fairly maintained throughout the year, owing principally to demand on Japanese account, which has taken a good deal of tonnage off the market. A number of steamers have also found purchasers, chiefly in Japan. For Southern ports the chartering has been limited, owing to the high rates asked. The Stock market has shown considerable activity during a great portion of the year, and prices of several stocks have advanced materially. Heavy settlements for December, combined with the tightness of money, have latterly brought about some reaction, and the market closes much weaker, with sellers predominating.

The December quarterly settlement on the Shanghai stock exchange passed over with no serious hitch. On the whole, our contemporary reports, the bears may be said to have had their way, but although one or two brokers have been somewhat badly hit, the general feeling is one of content and satisfaction.

JAPANESE COTTON.

(Daily Press, 3rd January.)

The subject of cotton, when mooted now in Hongkong, is not so likely to evoke frowns as was not long ago the case. The recent telegrams promising good crops and cheaper rates helped to appreciate the value of local shares, and to make more benign the countenances of local stockholders. Hongkong is, moreover, offering some promise of one day becoming less dependant upon foreign cotton. In addition to the areas cultivated by the Chinese, our New Territory is receiving special attention in this direction, the Colonial Government taking up the work so important to the Cotton Growing Association, and advancing money for the purchase of seed. The Botanical Department will, of course, retain part of the advance for its own experiments; but it is understood that native farmers are to be encouraged by advances from the fund thus set apart. Whether it will pay any of them to cease planting rice in order to grow cotton is, however, a question for the future to answer; and the majority will doubtless prefer to wait until the result of the experiments to be carried out in the hitherto uncultivated areas has been made apparent. There is a reasonable prospect of successful cultivation, according to some experts, even in our humid climate.

These are hopeful symptoms, but we are not out of the wood yet. The immediate outlook for the trade, from the dealers' point of view, was stated in our trade review on Saturday to be causative of great anxiety; and there is no denying that, apart altogether from the question of cost, the increasing opposition offered by Japan is threatening to close the Chinese market to the former suppliers. At present their mills are sending the coarser fabrics; but they are steadily aiming at the capture of the entire market. In yarns, they have already put the British spinner's nose out of joint in China, and Indian spinners are said to be beginning to feel the pinch. There have even been shipments to China of "Turkey reds," made and dyed in Japan, and consignments of finer materials are expected to arrive in a rush whenever the pressure of the war comes to be relaxed. Silly as the talk of "yellow peril" has hitherto been, there is one firm believer in it, and that is the man interested in the cotton trade. The peril is real enough: the pity is that the Britisher should be so seriously handicapped when he ought to be combating it.

REVOLUTIONARY RUSSIA.

(Daily Press, 4th January.)

"The people," said SULLY, who has been called the greatest of French statesmen, "never revolt from fickleness, or the mere desire of change. It is the impatience of suffering which alone has this effect." Some two centuries after his death the truth of the aphorism was well exemplified in the great French Revolution. In this the Russian Revolution already begun but bears out the same great truth. Up to the time of NICOLAS I. as in France to the middle of the reign of LOUIS XV., the people of Russia were devoted to their hereditary rulers, and the "Little Father," as they loved to call their TSAR, stood in much the same relation to the body of his subjects as did the "Bien Aime" to the commonalty of France. Amiable as were the two immediate successors of NICOLAS they lacked ability to extricate the nation from the evil legacy; and it was left to the present occu-

pant of the throne to fill up the cup prepared by his ungenial great grandfather. "My father," said King REHOBOAM on his succession to the great Kingdom of SOLOMON, "chastised you with whips, but I will chastise you with scorpions." And so in this modern time NICOLAS II., on being remonstrated with on the sufferings of the people, for a solace appointed M. POBYEDONOSTSEFF to take charge of their morals and consciences.

One of the most extraordinary circumstances about the whole of this affair is the persistence with which a certain section of the English Press never nauseates in singing the praises of the TSAR; he is the man of peace, who while seeking to lull the Powers into disarmament was actually planning the most contemptible war of modern times; he is the reformer who, while talking of freeing his people from the arbitrary exactions which have disgraced his reign, was actually tearing up the constitution of the only spot within his dominions where a spark of liberty still remained, and this notwithstanding that a short nine years previously he had sworn his solemn—and "Imperial"; barring the word—oath to respect the rights of his most advanced and most loyal subjects; he is the Apostle of religion and the champion of Christianity, who nevertheless persecutes his Christian Polish subjects, permits his Jewish subjects to be murdered, and all the while, SAUL-like in his desperation, could find no more fitting counsellor to soothe his conscience than a Parisian necromancer. It was well said of the House of BOURBON before its final effacement that it could learn nothing, and forget nothing, and the House of ROMANOFF presents in these modern days much the same phenomenon; indeed, in many respects the position of Russia is not unlike that of France in the latter half of the eighteenth century. In both has the Crown succeeded in getting into its hands the entire executive, and abolishing the last vestiges of provincial assemblies. In both has the Church, forgetting its high estate, become venal and corrupt, and permitted itself to become a mere registrar of the acts of the Court. In both has a privileged nobility forgotten that privilege has duties as a set-off against its rights, and has aggravated rather than attempted to smooth the inevitable contrast between wealth and poverty. In both corruption rules rampant, in Court, in the army, and in the administration of what it were mockery to call justice. In both the immediate relations of the monarch are noted for profligacy to the entire absence of princely virtues. Also, in both are the finances of the State in the last stage of disorder. Finally in both is the actual ruler feeble of purpose, vacillating in action, and practically a stranger to his people. In the latter respect the ruler of Russia is in even worse plight than LOUIS XVI. Distrustful of those whom he has misruled, he is practically a prisoner in his palace, and even there is the victim of fear and suspicion; he knows not but that the most trusted of his pretended friends may at any moment prove his executioner. As there is no man whom he has not wronged, and no man can trust his most solemn promise, so he in turn knows not but that his most familiar attendant may be the one to equalise the conditions by becoming the very first to betray him. Many if not most of his predecessors have met with violent deaths; he maintains an army of secret police, who spy into his most secret actions, and never attempts to show himself in public without having every means of approach guarded by thousands, hoping to find individual safety in the mutual jealousies of his entourage.

Even in his most trying moments LOUIS XVI. had his faithful friends to whom he had endeared himself; he was, as has been remarked, a king who of all others would have been the last to promote a revolution, though unhappily through his indecision of character also the last to withstand one. He suffered, indeed, not for his own sins, but for those of his predecessors, and the unanimous voice of history has absolved him personally. It is unlikely that the same will be the verdict in the other case. In the case of his grandfather some measure of the old traditional loyalty with which Russia was wont to regard her sovereigns was undoubtedly returning; his assassination is still a mystery, but there are dark suspicions that it was brought about by those in high confidence at Court, who feared that in the returning love of the Commons was involved their own doom. If we look to those with whom NICOLAS II. loves to surround himself we see ample cause for the feeling of animosity which has taken the place of the old confidence. The dark and superstitious POBYEDONOSTSEFF, the truculent PLEHVE, the blood-stained BOBRKOFF, not to speak of such lesser lights as the avaricious BRESEBESOFF, whose financial misdeeds in Manchuria and Korea brought on the present war, or the bombastic ALEXIEFF, who cut so strange a figure in his part of the Satrap of Eastern Asia. These are some of the men who have made the ill-omened word Revolution an everyday expression in Russia.

Nor is our comparison ended. NICOLAS has been as fatal in his attempts at reform as ever was the unfortunate LOUIS. Equally inconstant in his likings and dislikes, in his confidences and his suspicions, the last speaker has ever his momentary ear, only to be repudiated the next minute. Taking warning by the assassination of PLEHVE, he appoints Prince SVIATOPILK-MIRSKY, an almost open revolutionist, in his place, and for three days Russia is treated to talk of constitutions, and all the ready-made slang of the Socialists. The TSAR actually issues a decree announcing such useful measures as the abolition of arbitrary arrest, the establishment of independent judicial authority, the reform of financial affairs, &c. The inspired Russian Press sees herein the regeneration of the nation, and even the English Press, as if it had not had enough experience of the worth of Imperial promises, commences again its lackeyish applause of a "reforming" TSAR. Three days after the promise, indefinite as it was, is discarded. The Russian nation loves its chains; it has positively enjoyed them for the last three hundred years, and would not hear of their weight being even reduced a single ounce, and its beloved TSAR out of the affection which he bears his people will kindly continue the old policy. Even here NICOLAS has a precedent in his prototype the unfortunate LOUIS XVI., for the very first act of the coming revolution included the appointment and subsequent discharge of TURGOT and MALESHERBES, and the promise to France of similar boons. Both sovereigns were perfectly unaware of the great fact that in appointing reforming Ministers, and decreeing amendments, they were acknowledging the truth of the national complaint, and the subsequent withdrawal of the amendments only added fuel to the flame which was already burning with dangerous violence.

Mr. John Graham, a well-known and old-established broker at Shanghai, was found dead in his office on Dec. 31st. He is supposed to have been accidentally suffocated by the fumes from the gas stove.

THE HONGKONG ARBORETUM.

(Daily Press 5th January.)

Favourable as most residents are to the construction of the proposed new tramway up the Peak, there is bound to be a good deal of dismay when it is realized that the New Gardens are, under the existing plans, to suffer despoliation of a most regrettable kind.

The plans deposited show a cutting through the Gardens, and this cutting, if allowed, will inevitably ruin one of the best and most important features there. That is the very valuable and interesting plantation of pine trees, which were not collected without pains and difficulties; and have since been cultivated at the cost of the best skill and labour that the Botanical and Afforestation Department could bestow. This collection is believed to represent almost every known species of pine; and we have heard of no similar collection anywhere in the East.

So far, we have not been able to ascertain what view the Government takes of this item; but there ought to be some effort made to save such a unique arboretum, which occupies a totally different position in popular esteem to the outlying plantations of whose destruction we had something to say a short time ago. While abating not one iota of our complaint with regard to the short-sighted and mercenary scheme of deforesting the hills, we consider the newer attack if possible as of a more serious nature. There is a scientific and educational value attaching to this collection of trees, many of them rare varieties, against which it would be difficult to name a satisfactory off-set. We cannot speak from the engineer's point of view, and do not know how far it would be possible to arrange for a deviation so as to spare this place. Makers of railways are proverbially callous to such considerations, and without some pressure brought to bear upon them, would scarcely be likely to give such a matter any thought. It is for the Legislative Council, when next the plans come before it, to take hold of this question, with a view to induce the responsible persons to see its importance in the right light.

There are numerous arguments in favour of the importance of the new tramway scheme going through. We are fully disposed to adduce all we can, from the view point of the general public; but after all, it is primarily a concern originated with a view to private profit, and it is not too much to ask that for such a public property as the one whose existence is now threatened more consideration should be forthcoming.

We have had to speak very unsympathetically of the action of the Botanical and Afforestation Department within the past few months, since they went in for the timber trade—a branch of municipal trading with which our readers were not at all pleased. Even after the vandalism of which we maintain the Department was guilty at Aberdeen and neighbourhood, and the evident pride with which they paraded the consequent financial returns, we cannot believe that Superintendent Dunn and his colleagues will view with equanimity the loss of the plantation whose fate meantime hangs in abeyance. Have they no protest to make: no evidence with which to compel the active interest of a perhaps unobserving Government? This is a subject on which our unofficial members ought to ascertain public opinion, and afterwards to obtain from the Government some assurance that it either has had or will have their attention.

BEACHCOMBERS.

(Daily Press 6th January.)

We notice that a correspondent in one of our evening contemporaries thinks the Government remiss in not doing something for the "beachcombers." To quote him correctly, he thinks it "strange that the Government of a Colony whose wealth shows a continual increase cannot provide the funds to relieve the few men occasionally stranded in Hongkong." We think the Government has already done all that can be expected, in providing its House of Detention; and that a more sustained study of the problem of the unemployed would persuade the tender-hearted letter writer to a like opinion. In the Far East, the "beachcomber" is one of the most conspicuous figures. Wherever there is a foreign community, with the need of preserving the prestige of the foreigner in the eyes of the native, the "beachcomber" is sure to be. The reason is that Far Eastern communities, with that same prestige as their particular ear, have all along indulged in such promiscuous eleemosynary givings that they have unwittingly advertised the Far East as a place where a tired man may find rest from his labours, without having to starve in the meantime. One of the most typical of these idle or shiftless characters recently boasted that Shanghai was a place where he was always sure of a square meal. In Shanghai the people are just as foolishly generous as are our Hongkong sentimentalists; but so far, we have heard of no demand that the Municipal Council should found a coddling establishment for the invertebrate waifs who stray thither from time to time. The community of Shanghai is strongly opposed to communalism, or that form of socialism known as municipal trading; and perhaps they recognise that if it be unfair for the governing authority to cater in that way to the industrious members of the community, it is also unfair to usurp the functions of private philanthropy. It is rather curious to observe how most men object to socialism in politics and business, and how, when they are brought face to face with some of the unpleasant things incidental to a society based on individualism, they so often cry out for Government relief. Why not, to use a fiscalitis phrase, go the whole hog? If it be proper that the Government of this Colony should make provision for the amelioration of the out-of-worker, why should it not also be asked to help the many patient workers whose troubles are none the less real because unheard of, or at least, not so noisily bewailed? Why not demand that they should acquire all the house property in the Colony, and ease the struggling rent-payers by lowering rates where they most pinch? They have already begun this movement at Home, with their Housing of the Working Classes Act, and like all half measures, it has been attended by results not always satisfactory. In Germany, public works are arranged as often as possible to fit the needs of cheap labour. There is usually a loss, but the gain to humanity is accounted a sufficient offset. This would not help the situation much in Hongkong, were it practicable, for it is understood that the foreigner must not do unskilled labour, and if he could, the "beachcomber" would not. The Germans have also tried, in common with Switzerland and Belgium, schemes of insurance against unemployment, but without adequate success, because only a "whole hog" programme can secure that. Life would scarcely be worth living were society to

adopt the paternal principles of the ultra-socialists; but we would have the satisfaction of seeing the survival of the unfit. Indeed, since few men work, as the Rev. CAMPBELL would express it, "for the work's sake," we should probably all become unfit, revelling in an untroubled universal stagnation. The dread is lest some "beachcomber" should really be a deserving character, in want through no fault of his own. Considerable experience of the genus warrants the belief that this fear need not obsess us to the extent it appears to do. Such a man has opportunities to prove his status and secure help, without the suggested Government almshouse. It is not true to suggest that a destitute man is driven to dishonesty. Temporary destitution drives an honest one to work, to renewed energy, to greater resourcefulness. BECKY SHARP thought she could be good on £5,000 a year, but many remain tolerably so on much less. If they don't, they have to atone sooner or later. Those who are not downright bad are usually shiftless through lack of incentive, and indiscriminate charity robs them of that incentive.

THE SALE OF SHIPS IN WAR TIME.

(Daily Press, 7th January.)

The attitude which Russia has adopted with regard to international law on occasions when it is in her favour as compared with that assumed on occasions on which it has been against her would be amusing in its inconsistency, if the interests involved were not of so much importance that the matter can hardly be looked upon otherwise than seriously. International law is proverbially elastic, and certainly Russia may claim the credit of showing very distinctly the lengths to which it can be stretched. If there is one point which is clearly established by international practice, and which is accepted by all the authorities on international law, it is that the purpose for which articles not in their nature contraband are designed is the test as to whether they can fairly be considered contraband. Warlike materials such as arms and ammunition are of course contraband in their very nature. But there are a large number of articles which may or may not be used in the furtherance of war, such as foodstuffs, railway material, and the like. With regard to these, the test has always been whether they are directly sent to assist the forces in the field. In deciding this point, there is of course a very large loophole left to the discretion of Prize Courts, and on the whole they have been found to act with as much reasonableness as can be expected from people under the circumstances. But in all these cases, Russia has not hesitated to interpret the law widely in her own favour, and has in more than one instance treated as contraband articles which are not so in themselves, and on some occasions has done so without giving an opportunity for the matter to be adjudicated by any Prize Court.

A writer in the *Spectator*, Mr. DE MONTMORENC, sets forth the true bearing of the action of Russia in buying cruisers of such a character that they might either be used for merely mercantile purposes, or, should occasion arise, for war purposes. In this it is needless to say Russia has taken a very different stand to that which she adopted in regard to articles which might or might not according to circumstances be contraband, though the principle which governs both cases is essentially the same, namely the object for which the articles challenge are designed. The above named writer,

after deprecating the fact that the Law Officers of the Crown have not advised that a protest be made, points out that the accepted rule is that merchant ships may be sold by a neutral to a belligerent Government despite the fact that at the time of sale it is well known by the vendors that if these ships are delivered they will be converted into cruisers; but he goes on to state with justice that the test is not whether or not ships can be rapidly transformed into cruisers — as many mercantile ships can — but whether their primary and original function was mercantile and nothing else. A ship to come within the rule above set forth "must not be capable of putting on and off at pleasure an original belligerent capacity; and if such ships are sold for belligerent purposes, it is impossible to say that they are not sold in their belligerent capacity." Russia, however, has even gone further than this by sending so-called volunteer vessels through the Bosphorus unarmed with the express object of arming them after they had passed; and, if we compare the attitude taken up by her in this matter with that which she has adopted as to cargoes as above explained, we can form some idea of the extent to which she is ready when it suits her to set all principles of international law at defiance.

The policy, however, of adopting such a position is as much open to question as its justifiability even under the greatest stress. If vessels of this kind described can be sold to Russia, they can also be sold to Japan — and it may be greatly doubted, therefore, whether in acting upon a principle radically wrong, Russia may not be opening a door some day to serious injury to herself. It is not difficult to conceive circumstances in which Russia might herself be deeply concerned in the opposite principle to that upon which she has acted being maintained — if indeed she is not in that position in respect to the present war. It is, of course, not easy absolutely to prove that a given vessel has been *ab initio* designed for possible warlike purposes. There are many easy ways of making vessels very handily stand-bys in case of war without its being apparent that they were from the first intended for this object; and upon this ground the position taken up by the Law Officers on the subject is comprehensible. In such cases the sale of the vessels could not be considered a breach of neutrality; but if from their character and construction there can be no doubt that they were from the first intended for warlike purposes, should occasion arise, there can hardly be a doubt that their sale to a belligerent amounts, as Mr. DE MONTMORENCY argues, to a breach of neutrality. It is to be hoped that the question will be made the subject of international conference, so that some understanding may be arrived at with regard to it.

HONGKONG JOTTING.

3rd January.

It is "old custom" on the threshold of a new year to reflect on one's sins of omission and commission during the old year and to make good resolutions for the new. Individually, we have no doubt all have done this. But there are Corporations who, as somebody has explained to the world, have no bodies to be kicked or souls to be condemned. For them we pray, and a few prayers which the experience of the past few days have suggested may be briefly set down as follows:

To the Gas Company — Give us light.
To the Water Authority — Give us water when we need it most.

There is something tragic about the last moments of an expiring year, but the Gas Company's assistance in adding to the gloom of the occasion was as unwelcome as it was

unsolicited. Not only on New Year's Eve, but on the night of the first day of the year in some parts of the Colony candles and lamps had to be requisitioned to supplement the feeble glimmer of the gas burners. The favourite song after dinner was: "In the Gloaming." My grievance against the Water Authority is that they will give us no water when we want it most. From 7 to 8 a.m. is a much more convenient hour for our daily ration of water than 7 to 8 p.m. [Since the above was written, I have learnt with satisfaction that the public convenience is being consulted in this respect.]

A few years ago a man who described himself as "Professor Richard" toured the East, claiming to cure all manner of ills by electricity. He claimed ability to make the blind to see, the deaf to hear, and, briefly put, it seemed that he claimed to do anything in this line short of raising the dead. He succeeded in taking home a good many dollars from the East notwithstanding that he was practically hounded out of some ports as an impostor and a charlatan. By the last mail I received a newspaper — probably from the "Professor" — containing a glowing account of the miracles achieved by this wonder worker in the great seaport of the English Channel. I wonder whether in all the East there is a single case of a permanent cure among the many persons Richard operated upon in the course of his tour in these parts? From what I know of his "cures" I should say it would be difficult to discover a case.

An incident occurred in the harbour last week which I think deserves more public notice than it has received. It was a gallant and happily successful rescue by Dr Forster, the assistant Port Medical Officer. While out in his launch at West Point he saw a sampan overturned, and proceeding at once to the scene of the collision, divesting himself of part of his clothing on the way, he dived for two children whom he found underneath the boat entangled in the wreckage. He had great difficulty in releasing them, and was under water himself quite a long time, having in fact, become entangled too; and to add to his peril some Chinese who were using bamboo poles in an attempt to right the sampan unwittingly struck him a heavy blow on the shoulder. The gallant doctor succeeded with much difficulty in bringing the two children to the surface, and they were taken on board the steamer *Telemachus* in a lifeless condition, where Dr. Forster with the assistance of the officers of the ship at once set to work to restore animation, and after working hard for about an hour and a half he succeeded in restoring them. I do not know what means exist in Hongkong for bringing acts of gallantry to the notice of the Royal Humane Society, but I venture to suggest that the Society's Medal was well earned by Dr. Forster last week, and if there is any authority in the Colony which attends to these matters, I think this is a case which will readily commend itself to their attention.

Some amusement was caused at the Supreme Court last week when Mr. H. E. Pollock, K.C. was examining an aged Chinese witness. The old gentleman, in describing at length a visit to a certain party, spoke of how the other man and he drank tea together, and exchanged various courtesies. Enquiries were made after each other's relations, how long since each had been to Canton, how they had spent their lives, etc. His Honour at last interrupting asked "What next?" The other blandly replied "I then went away; nothing else."

Looking at a service paper the other day my attention was naturally arrested by the word Hongkong, and I read as follows: — "General Tulloch's plea for stifling commerce in Gibraltar will not commend itself to a commercial nation. Trade is quite sufficiently stifled already in most garrison towns and naval ports. There seems to be something inimical to the growth of commerce in all garrison centres, with, perhaps, one or two exceptions, such as Hongkong." There is no gainsaying the fact that commerce has flourished in this garrison centre, but the local men of commerce nevertheless have their grievances against the naval and military authorities, and many a time and oft they have cried them aloud.

The man-of-war anchorage appears pretty well occupied just at present with some of Great Britain's best fighting ships on the China Station. The first class, twin-screw cruiser *Hornet* has come out from home and a portion of the squadron has come down from Wei-hai-wei. There appears also to be more than the average number of merchant steamers in the harbour just now, and the observer will note that, magnificent as our harbour is, the Harbour authorities must at times experience a good deal of difficulty in meeting the demand for accommodation in the more accessible parts of the harbour when any considerable portion of the China Squadron is here. We have not for many years seen so little of the squadron as we have done this year.

BANYAN.

THE TRADE OF HONGKONG FOR 1904.

The following summary of the trade of Hongkong for the past year will, it is hoped, prove interesting to our readers. It has been carefully compiled, and the facts have been gleaned from the most reliable sources.

YARNS.

English Yarns.—In 22/24s. there has been but a small business, price being too high. Japanese and Bombay Yarns to a great extent taking their place. In 28/32s. a very small business has passed. 4s. were in more demand this year, with delivery running well into next year; dealers' commitments were rather heavy at high prices. Spinners apparently being well engaged, are now asking late shipment as a rule.

Bombay Yarns.—The trade in Indian grey yarn during the year has shown a marked decline, as will be seen by the arrivals and sales given below: —

Arrivals.	Sales.
1903 — 293,850 bales.	170,485 bales.
1904 — 224,820 bales.	147,519 bales.

Decrease 69,031 bales. 22,966 bales. This shows a decrease of 23½ per cent. on imports and nearly 13½ per cent. on sales respectively. This shrinkage was chiefly due to the abnormally high prices of both cotton and yarn consequent on scarcity of raw material and the manipulations of the American market. Prices steadily advanced, with a few occasional lulls, throughout the year. Five of the Bombay mills were closed during a great part of the year, but some improvement has set in latterly, and most of the mills have secured favourable contracts as far ahead as July-August next to the tune of 80,000 bales for the China markets and are now working full time.

The local cotton yarn mill suffered with the rest during 1904, but with a better supply of raw material at lower prices is increasing its production.

Japanese Yarns.—Owing to the war business has fallen off considerably, production being curtailed, and high prices asked. On the dealers' side the result of their transactions in Yarns generally is the admission "small chance."

OPIUM.

The trade in opium during 1904 was characterised by heavy fluctuations, and owing to the speculative nature of the business it is impossible to say how far it was remunerative to importers. For the Chinese dealers, however, the results have not been favourable. The trade was unaffected by the war in the North. Prices for Bengal drug fluctuated with exchange, but on the whole ruled higher than in 1903, and demand showed no falling off. Malwa was in somewhat less inquiry, and that for Persian showed a heavy decline. The following table of Imports and Exports, from January to November, 1903 and 1904, shows the course of the trade: —

Imports.	Malwa	Patna	Benares	Persian	Turkish	Chi- nese	Total
1903 — 8,679	22,253	8,468	6,521	19	94—16,034	chests	
1904 — 7,303	20,861	9,364	4,658	33	111—42,221	"	

Exports.	Malwa	Patna	Benares	Persian	Turkish	Chi- nese	Total
1903 — 8,004	32,287	8,718	6,928	20	94—46,051	chests	
1904 — 7,046	19,220	8,638	4,517	7	34—39,762	"	

PIECE GOODS.

Cotton Goods.—In the first few months of the year the business done was very moderate, but matters improved considerably about June, and fair quantities of goods have changed hands

since. The slump in cotton, however, has made dealers very anxious, and grave fears are now held for the losses that may have to be faced on the purchases coming forward. Enquiry from the country is practically nil at present. If Cotton had remained in the region of say 5d. to 6d. there would have been a good business passing at the present time, instead of stagnation. Shanghai and Japan have taken off considerable quantities of Drills and Heavy Goods during the last few months, and this has assisted matters somewhat, fair prices being realized. The trade in Mexicans is declining every year, as the natives manufacture similar goods themselves from Bombay and Japanese Yarns.

Fancies.—Fairly heavy stocks are held by dealers of high priced cargo, and until these go into consumption business is likely to be curtailed; particularly under the present conditions of this market. Arbitration for claims seems to be the order of the day, often, it must be said, on account of the wilful or otherwise inattention to details of contracts on the part of suppliers &/or shippers. In good times many of these claims might not have been made, but it is only natural that dealers should try and cut losses when an opportunity is afforded them.

Woolens.—Prices have been too high so consumption has fallen off, and Cotton goods are taking their place to a great extent. Stocks are small, but notwithstanding this the market is in a bad way. The Japanese appear to be supplying Formosa now with Camlets, Lastings, etc. There has been a very good business done in blankets, however, chiefly for the North for war purposes doubtless.

METALS.

Pig Iron.—Imports have shown a reduction owing to the troubles in the North, and prices have ruled weak nearly all the year until recently.

Bar Iron & Nail Rods.—The business done shows no increase on that of last year, and has apparently been transacted with little profit to dealers, except perhaps at the beginning of the year.

Tin Plates.—A large business has been transacted, possibly 50 per cent. more than last year, and good profits have resulted towards the end of the year. Japan has been a good customer lately.

Lead.—The consumption has fallen off and prices gradually declined during the best part of the year, but the market is stronger at present.

Yellow Metal.—Imports of this have been reduced by about 50 per cent., but otherwise the business done has been more or less satisfactory; prices have advanced recently.

Zinc Sheets.—A moderate business only has been current, but of a more or less satisfactory character.

Wire Nails.—A fair increase over last year, and pretty good profits have as a rule resulted.

Quicksilver.—Demand has fallen off considerably,—at least 25 per cent.—owing to importation of Vermilion, and prices have gradually declined with exception of a small spurt, which did not last long.

Window Glass.—The Import shows an appreciable reduction, partly owing to strikes at home, but fair results on business are admitted.

Old & Waste Metals.—The consumption has exhibited a considerable decrease, owing to Northern troubles. The war has helped trade in some respects, but has hindered in others.

COAL.

With regard to Japanese Coal, supplies have been more than ample, and prices have consequently weakened. Many firms laid in stocks, naturally anticipating difficulty in getting supplies on account of the war, a conclusion that proved erroneous, and less bunkering has been done than usual by vessels passing through. The price of Cardiff Coal has been maintained at \$17/18 ex ship, but the trade in this quality has been more limited this year. Hongkong as a smokeless coal is in greater requisition for industrial purposes.

KEROSENE OIL.

The trade in this staple has shown no great development during the past year, but it has been well maintained, as will be seen by the following table of deliveries:—

	1903	1904
American	2,520,000 cases	2,600,000 cases
Russian	30,000 "	200,000 "
Borneo	1,220,000 "	20,000 "
Sumatra	1,210,000 "	1,300,000 "
Langkat	260,000 "	280,000 "
Burmah	—	100,000 "

5,240,000 cases 5,430,000 cases.

The average prices paid were:—

	1903	1904
American	\$3.20 per case	\$2.60 per case
Russian	2.95 "	2.42 "
Borneo	2.95 "	2.20 "
Sumatra	2.95 "	2.20 "
Langkat	2.76 "	2.10 "
Burmah	—	1.90 "

The Burmah oil made its first appearance on this market during 1904, and, being of a rather poor quality, has not so far made much progress. A great reduction has, it will be seen, taken place in prices all round as compared with those ruling in 1903, when there was a short supply. Now with the opening of the Californian and Texan oil fields there is a much larger production and consequent greater competition, which is likely to be keener in the coming year, inasmuch as the Californian oil, already being imported into North China, will also be brought into this market. It is worthy of note that last year's production of oil in California was greater than that of any State in the Union. Very little Russian oil now comes into the Hongkong market.

RICE.

Prices dropped 5c. in the first quarter, and have remained fairly steady since, but the business has been somewhat curtailed. Stocks of Siam Rice are light, and Saigon nil, owing to floods in that district.

FLOUR.

This year commenced badly owing to high prices on the Pacific Coast, and heavy stocks locally, and a great falling off in demand generally. The latter part of the year has however, seen an improvement. Stocks have lightened for Portland Flour, but stocks of Californian Flour are rather heavy; consumption slow.

The following table shows the comparative imports for the past seven years:—

	California. Oreg. & Wash. Total.
	Quarters Quarters Quarters.
July 1897 to July 1898	1,366,391 2,215,751 = 3,812,141
1898	1,692,110 3,554,246 = 4,742,356
1899	2,054,356 3,316,791 = 5,371,150
1900	1,784,310 3,863,021 = 5,647,930
1901	1,902,349,603 3,157,615 = 5,507,248
1902	1,901,214,385 3,129,342 = 5,343,777
1903	2,008,035 2,456,864 = 4,464,899

July 1904 to Dec. 1904 9,12,000 1,05,000 = 1,992,000

Although from these returns there is an apparent falling off in the import, there has been none in the local consumption, as most of the large supplies for Vladivostock, Chefoo and Newchwang, formerly all transhipped hence to those ports, have latterly gone direct.

SILK.

Exporters' losses last season are likely to be made up this, but producers have not made money owing to the poor condition of the silk-worms. The volume of trade has been smaller than in 1903, but higher prices generally have been realised.

TEA.

This export has of late years become more or less a negligible quantity here, and the decline in volume has been continued in 1904, the estimated total export of Macao and Canton Teas for this season being 1,250,000 lbs. as compared with some 1,437,000 lbs. in 1903.

SUGAR.

This industry has done well throughout the year. Owing to the shortage in the Beet crop, prices of all grades of Cane Sugar have advanced and the local refineries have been working full time, earning large profits.

PRESERVED GINGER.

The high price of sugar has adversely affected producers, but competition has kept prices steady all the same. Exports have fallen off considerably.

SOY.

Exports have been reduced, owing to the lack of demand abroad.

MATTING.

The demand for Chinese matting is steadily falling off, owing to the superiority of the Japanese manufacture.

ESSENTIAL OILS.

Exports during the past year have decreased, prices being too high owing to the difficulty of getting supplies from Kwangsi.

TONNAGE.

The year 1903 closed dull with low rates of freight, only 7 to 8 cents. per picul offering for Saigon, but a marked improvement took place early in 1904. During February the demand for Tonnage increased at rising rates coastwise and especially for time charters, principally for Japanese account. During the months of May and June rates weakened somewhat, and the decline continued up to the end of July, when it again strengthened, and the improvement has continued to the present. The principal feature in Freights during the past year has been the large number of settlements of steamers on time charters on what may be taken as good paying rates for owners. The bulk of these settlements were for the North, and on Japanese account. A number of steamers have also found purchasers, mostly in Japan such vessels being usually from fifteen to twenty years old. In the South the chartering on time has been very limited, owing to the high rates obtainable in the North, and the removal hence of much of the Tonnage generally available. The closing rates for Saigon are from 16 to 17 cents per picul.

THE CONDITION OF THE CANTON DELTA.

Armed robbery and blackmailing is rampant in the Canton delta, etc. and this not only affects travelling—for all that can afford to do so have brought their families to Canton, Macao and Hongkong—but the risks attendant on trans port of goods is so great, that trade is partially paralysed thereby. Many rich and influential men, including Hongkong dealers etc. have been held up for heavy ransom, and threatened with death if this is not paid. This state of affairs is disgraceful at this time of day, more especially as the delta and West River districts are being so much opened up by steam traffic, but Chinese official apathy is well known, and the efforts made to repress piracy are singularly ineffective. The present Viceroy apparently has his hands full with rebels in Kwangsi, and another stern and forceful character like Li Hung-chang is wanted to bring order to these districts. His administration in Canton was short, but more or less a reign of terror to evildoers, especially these piratical gentry who now carry on their occupation with so much impunity. Cannot the Hongkong Chamber of Commerce take up this matter seriously, and urge on the authorities the desirability of British gunboats with Chinese officials on board being allowed to patrol the waterways again, dealing out summary punishment to robbers and criminals caught red handed. A general police service, with Indian constables under the control of the Imperial Maritime Customs, who already employ Indians for frontier patrol work, would help matters very materially.

MATERIAL IMPROVEMENTS AT CANTON.

Considerable improvements are proceeding in Canton, which city is beginning to show signs of commercial development. Wharves and godowns are being built on the Honam and Fati sides, and preparation made for direct trading. The channel of the river is being improved and the Shamien Municipality is altering the drainage system to open surface drains at a cost of \$30,000.

We regret to announce the death of Mr. Dalgleish, a member of the staff of the Hongkong and Shanghai Banking Corporation, on Jan. 3. Mr. Dalgleish was the son of a well-known "China hand" formerly resident in Shanghai, and was respected and esteemed by a wide circle of friends. He had recently been on the Bank's Manila staff and came to Hongkong a few weeks ago to enter the hospital.

Six Indian constables were being sworn in by Mr. F. A. Hazeland at the Police Court on January 5th. The interpreter was asking the usual list of questions. On inquiring of one of the Indians "Are you married?" His Worship was surprised to hear the reply—"Yes, small marriage." "What do you mean by that?" he asked, through the interpreter. "Engaged," answered the Indian. His Worship smiled.

LOCAL AND DISTRICT EVENTS 1904.

JANUARY.

- 1st—Taikoo Sports at Quarry Bay.—H.K.C.C. v. Navy.
- 2nd—H.K.F.C. beat H.M.S. *Albion* under Rugby Rules.
- 4th—Important Land Court appeal case decision in Hongkong Supreme Court.
- 5th—H.K.F.C. beat H.M.S. *Leviathan*.
- 6th—Fire in Chinese jeweller's shop at No. 89 Queen's Road Central; premises gutted.—Fire at Macao, 60 houses destroyed.
- 7th—Statutory meeting of Canton-Hongkong Ice and Cold Storage Co. Ltd.—Journalists' Association formed at Hongkong.
- 9th—H.M.S. *Leviathan* beat H.M.S. *Glory* in first shield competition—H.M.S. *Albion* beat H.K.F.C.—Sixth R.H.K.Y.C. race.
- 12th—Fire on Norwegian steamer *Prima* in Hongkong harbour.
- 13th—Labour strike on the Canton-Fatshan railway.
- 14th—Bluejackets underwent first drill under new system of rifle and field exercise, at Happy Valley.
- 15th—Transport *Dilwara* arrived with 500 details for Hongkong.
- 16th—Annual meeting of China Provident Loan and Mortgage Co. Ltd.—Inaugural dinner of Hongkong Journalists' Association—Hongkong Volunteer Concert.—H.K.C.C. v. United Services.—Murder of Chinaman near Taipo—Wanderers beat H.K.F.C. at Rugby—Commodore R.H.K.Y.C. Cup Race.—Plebiscite with regard to Mr. Chamberlain's Fiscal Policy taken at the City Hall; 392 voted for, 20 against.
- 19th—Yuk On s.s. *Ying King's* trial trip.—Six officers and 111 rank and file of 83rd Co. R.G.A. arrived from Canada by the *Empress of India*—Thirty-three Naval ratings arrived from Shanghai by s.s. *Kalgan*.
- 20th—Fifteenth ordinary meeting Kowloon Land and Building Co. Ltd.—Sixty-fifth Annual Meeting Medical Missionary Society's Hospital at Canton.
- 21st—Annual meeting Church Missionary Association at City Hall—H.M.S. *Tamar* beat V.R.C. in shield football match—89th Co. R.G.A. left for Rangoon by the *Dilwara*.
- 22nd—H.K.F.C. beat H.M.S. *Ocean* under Rugby rules—No 13 Seymour Road burnt out.
- 23rd—Large fire at No. 314, Des Voeux Road—H.K.F.C. beat Naval Yard—s.s. *Rohilla Maru* withdrawn from Hongkong-Manila run.—Seventh R.H.K.Y.C. race.
- 26th—Annual Meeting Hongkong Benevolent Society—Annual meeting of shareholders of St. John's Cathedral.
- 27th—Annual meeting Hongkong Land Investment and Agency Co. Ltd.—Annual meeting Hongkong Land Reclamation Co. Ltd.—Oxford and Cambridge dinner at Hongkong Hotel.
- 28th—s.s. *Linton* launched at Kowloon Docks.—Yorkshire dinner at City Hall.—Russian recruits on s.s. *Kazan* passed through Hongkong.
- 29th—Prize distribution at Diocesan School.—Attempted robbery at Post Office.
- 30th—Prize distribution at Belilius Public School—H.M.S. *Albion* beat H.K.F.C.—Scratch four oared races—H.K.C.C. v. Garrison.—Annual meeting National Bank of China, Limited.—Ladies' race R.H.K.Y.C.—Nos. 54 and 56 Wing Lok Street gutted by fire.

FEBRUARY.

- 1st—Dr. F. Krüger relieved Dr. O. Gumprecht as German Consul.—Distribution of prizes at the Anglo-Chinese District Schools.
- 2nd—Distribution of prizes at Queen's College.—do. at Ellis Kadoorie Chinese School.—do Koon Hew Free School.—H.K.F.C. beat R.E.
- 3rd—Ball at Government House.—Trial trip of French steamer *Paul Beau*.—Distribution of prizes at St. Stephen's College.
- 5th—Nos. 72 and 74 Bonham Strand destroyed by fire.—H.M.S. *Albion* beat H.K.H.C.—H.M.S. *Cressy* beat R.E. in a shield match.—H.K.F.C. beat Navy under Rugby rules.

- 6th—Annual meeting Hongkong Rope Manufacturing Co. Ltd.—Annual meeting Hongkong, Canton and Macao Steamboat Co. Ltd.—Training Hongkong Races.—Sherwood Foresters beat H.K.F.C.—H.K.C.C. drew with Navy—H. K. Reserves beat Civil Service—Craigengowers beat Parsees.
- 8th—Mr. Haskett's lecture at City Hall on "Fiscal Policy and Imperial Federation."—Rebellion at St. Peter's College.—Our late Colonial Secretary, H. E. Mr. J. H. Stewart Lockhart, visited Hongkong.
- 9th—H.K.C.C. dance at City Hall.
- 10th—Annual meeting Hongkong Ice Co., Ltd.—Annual meeting Humphreys' Estate and Finance Co., Ltd.
- 11th—Sale of work at Sailors' and Soldiers' Home.—Winding up of Hongkong and Kowloon Steam Launch Co., Ltd.—Eighth race R.H.K.Y.C.
- 13th—H.K.C.C. Reserves beat Craigengowers—Civil Service C.C. beat R.E.—A.O.C.C. beat Parsees.—A.D.C. staged "His Excellency" at the City Hall—H.K.F.C. beat H.M.S. *Cressy* under Rugby rules.—Arrival of H.M.S. *King Alfred* from home.—Trial trip Yuen On S.S. Co.'s *Kwong Tung*.
- 15th—Annual meeting Hongkong Brewery Co.—First general meeting Anglo-Japanese Locomotive and Engineering Co., Ltd.
- 16th—Police Shooting Match.
- 17th—H.K.C.C. v. United Services.
- 18th—Final tie for H.E. Mr. May's Polo Cup.—H.K.F.C. beat H.M.S. *Ocean* under Rugby Rules.
- 19th—Annual meeting Hongkong Rifle Association.—H.K.C.C. played H.K.H.C.—Half-yearly meeting Hongkong and Shanghai Banking Corporation.—H.M.S. *Ocean* beat H.K.F.C.—Fire at No. 352, Queen's Road Central; premises gutted.—H.K.V.C.'s final shoot for Sir Thomas Jackson's Cup.—R.H.K.Y.C.'s ninth club race.
- 22nd—Annual meeting Hongkong and Whampoa Dock Co.
- 23rd—H.K.J.C. opening day—Distribution of prizes Victoria Home and Orphanage.
- 24th—Fire at No. 95, Jervois Street—Large fire at Canton; 100 houses burnt down.
- 25th—Fire at Nos. 438 to 444, Des Voeux Road, West; premises gutted.
- 26th—93rd Burma Infantry regimental sports.
- 27th—H.K.J.C. off-day.—H.K.F.C. played H.M.S. *Albion* under Rugby rules.
- 28th—H.M.S. *Leviathan* beat Royal Artillery in a shield match.—1,400 Chinese soldiers passed through Hongkong en route for the Kwangsi rebellion.
- MARCH.**
- 1st—Inaugural meeting Gymkhana Club...Mr. John Cowan, Editor of *China Times* (Tientsin), ordered to give security for his good behaviour in consequence of his denouncing Russian cruelties.
- 2nd—Fire on s.s. *Glenturret* at Singapore.
- 3rd—H.K.F.C. beat Navy under Rugby Rules.—China Navigation Co.'s s.s. *Taming*, one of six new ships for coastal trade, arrived from home.
- 5th—10th Club race R.H.K.Y.C.—H.K.F.C. beat V.R.C.—Philharmonic Society's concert at City Hall.—Annual meeting Hongkong Fire Insurance Co. Ltd.—H.K.C.C. v. Navy.
- 6th—P. and O. s.s. *Ballarat* collided with river steamer *Chang On* at Woosung—Consecration of bells at St. Joseph's Cathedral.
- 7th—A Yorkshire dinner at Hongkong Hotel.—Longmoon open to foreign trade.
- 8th—Navy team beat H.K.F.C. under Rugby rules.
- 9th—H.M.S. *Vengeance* beat H.K.H.C.—Annual meeting of Geo. Fenwick and Co. Ltd.
- 10th—Annual meeting China Fire Insurance Co. Ltd.—Annual meeting Hongkong and Kowloon Wharf and Godown Co. Ltd.
- 11th—H.M.S. *Ocean* beat H.M.S. *Leviathan* at hockey.
- 12th—H.K.C.C. played United Services.—H.M.S. *Cressy* beat H.M.S. *Leviathan* in the Challenge Shield semi-final.—H.M.S. *Albion* beat H.K.F.C. at Rugby.—Ricksha strike at Macao settled.—Chinese pirates attempted to blackmail Mr. W. Farmer at Macao.—R.H.K.Y.C. resailed 9th Club race.
- 14th—Navy beat Hongkong Club at bowls.
- 15th—Ladies' Rifle Association meeting opened.
- 16th—s.s. *An Hse* underwent trial trip.
- 17th—Annual meeting China Association. H.M.S. *Albion* beat H.M.S. *Ocean* in semi-final for football shield.—Fire at No. 37 Jervois Street.
- 18th—Chinese boy murdered at West Point.
- 19th—Annual meeting Hongkong Hotel Co. Ltd.—Annual meeting China and Manila s.s. Co. Ltd.—H.M.S. *Albion* beat H.M.S. *Cressy* in the football shield final.—Annual meeting China-Borneo Co. Ltd.—Devonian dinner at Hongkong Hotel.—H.K.C.C. v. Union Church R.C.—11th Club race R.H.K.Y.C.
- 21st—Annual meeting Hongkong Odd Volumes Society.
- 22nd—Memorial service at St. John's Cathedral for the Duke of Cambridge. Hill district reservation petition sent to H.E. Mr. May.
- 23rd—110th Mahratta L.I. beat H.M.S. *Ocean* in final for Hockey Club Cup.—Brothers Hancock won final in H.K.C.C. rackets tournament.
- 24th—Annual meeting China Sugar Refinery Co. Ltd.—Annual meeting Luzon Sugar Refinery Co. Ltd.—Navy beat H.K.F.C. at Rugby.
- 25th—United Mark Lodge Installation.
- 26th—Annual meeting Watkins Ltd.—H.M.S. *Albion* beat H.M.S. *Cressy* at football.—H.K.C.C. v. United League XV.—Hongkong Club beat Navy at bowls.—Annual inspection Hongkong Volunteer Corps.
- 28th—Hongkong Schools Athletic Sports.—Sham midnight attack on Hongkong.
- 30th—Opening day R.G.A. regimental sports.—Presentations by Sanitary Board to Messrs. Woodcock (Secretary), and Bryan (Surveyor).
- 31st—Mr. T. Sercombe Smith, P.M., appointed Puisne Judge.
- APRIL.**
- 2nd—V.R.C. Athletic Sports.
- 5th—H.E. Senhor Martinho d'Queiroz Montenegro, new Governor of Macao, arrived by French mail.
- 6th—Annual meeting Green Island Cement Co.—Chamber of Commerce party's trip to Waichow.
- 8th—Government launch *Alexandra* attacked by pirates at Namke Island.
- 9th—12th Club race R.H.K.Y.C.
- 11th—Serious fire at Kowloon Godowns.
- 14th—Kang Yu Wei, the reformer, expelled from Hongkong.—Fire at Nos. 282 to 290 Queen's Road.
- 16th—11th Club race R.H.K.Y.C. resailed.
- 17th—R.H.K.Y.C. sailed for Mr. W. B. Dixon's Cup.
- MAY.**
- 19th—Archbishop John Guidi, Papal delegate to the Philippines, arrived at Hongkong from Manila.—Hongkong Club beat Club Germania at bowls.
- 20th—Hongkong Cricket League shield presented to winners; A.O.C.C.—H.K.C.C. beat Ladies' Recreation Club at tennis. Fires at Nos. 210 Queen's Road, and No. 31 Pokfulam Road.
- 21st—Explosion on the s.s. *Cowrie* in Hongkong harbour.
- 23rd—First Gymkhana Club meeting at Happy Valley.
- 24th—Fire at No. 1 Bon' am Strand West.
- 27th—General meeting Hongkong Nursing Institution.
- 29th—Another serious fire at the Kowloon Godowns.—Fire Brigade exhibition.—Appointment of Officers District Grand Royal Arch Chapter.
- 30th—V.R.C. scratch rowing races.—S.S. *Sungkhang* disabled by fire; put back to Hongkong (see "A").
- 1st—New s.s. *Tean* arrived from home.—Last race of R.H.K.Y.C. sailed. The (Masonic) consecration and installation ceremony of Hongkong Consistory No. 11, under the Supreme Council of Scotland (33rd degree).
- 5th—Annual meeting Union Church.
- 8th—Shekwan festival.
- 9th—Fire at No. 36 Connaught Road.
- 13th—Presentation of prizes to Hongkong Fire Brigade.
- 16th—Meeting of Mercantile Marine officers with object of forming a club.
- 23rd—s.s. *Hoihao* wrecked at Hainan Head.
- 25th—Mr. T. H. Reid, Editor of *China Mail*, left for home.

28th—International Polo match at Causeway Bay; a win for Scotland.—Robert's exhibition of billiards.
 29th—Ricarte, the Filipino insurgent, captured at Mariveles, P. I.
 30th—Captain's Cup, Royal Hongkong Golf Club; won by Captain Drew, R.N.—Annual meeting V.R.C.
 31st—Annual meeting Messrs A. S. Watson and Co. Ltd.

JUNE.

1st—H. Hancock won final of tennis championship—Annual meeting Punjom Mining Co. Ltd.—Annual meeting Star Ferry Co. Ltd. Fatshan-Samshui railway opened.
 2nd—Star Ferry landing stage burnt down—s.s. *Thales* brought to Hongkong in disabled condition.
 6th—Shooting case on s.s. *Heathburn* in Hongkong Harbour—Collier *Algoma* wrecked on Tung-mie point.
 7th—Opening ceremony Alice Memorial Maternity Hospital.
 8th—V.R.C. beat Royal Artillery at water polo.
 9th—Annual meeting China Light and Power Co. Ltd.
 10th—New Y.M.C.A. rooms opened.
 11th—V.R.C. Aquatic Carnival.
 14th—s.s. *Taiping*, afterwards salved, went ashore on Sudan Island.
 15th—Memorial service at St John's Cathedral for Sherwood Foresters who fell in the Boer war—Abdul Kalik, the Canton murderer, sentenced to death.
 18th—Dragon boat festival at Aberdeen.—St Anthony's festival at Macao.
 19th—Destroyer *Sparrowhawk* foundered in the Yangtsze river.
 22nd—Fire at No. 39, Bonham Strand.

JULY.

1st—Collapse of house No. 1, Han Fung Street, Wan Chai.
 3rd—First running of electric tram-cars in Hongkong.
 4th—General meeting of Hongkong Nursing Institution.
 8th—Fires at No. 51, Bonham Strand, and No. 65 Station Street, Yaumati.—Presentation of Prizes, Police Musketry course.
 14th—s.s. *Shanghai* launched at Kowloon docks.—Annual meeting Tebrau Planting Co. Ltd.
 16th—Annual meeting Hongkong Electric Co. Ltd.
 17th—Shocking tragedy; three soldiers shot dead at Stonecutter's Island.—Sensational raid of Triads at Yaumati.
 23rd—Distribution of prizes at Italian Convent.—V.R.C. Aquatic Carnival.—Annual meeting Canton Land Co. Ltd.
 25th—“At Home” at Government House.
 28th—Prize distribution at Diocesan Boys' School.
 29th—H. E. Sir Matthew Nathan, K.C.M.G., arrived at Hongkong.
 30th—Second Gymkhana meeting.—Prize distribution at Kowloon Bowling Green Club.—Beginning of electric tramway service.

AUGUST.

3rd—Important decision in Supreme Court re side walk obstructions.—Steamers *Wong Koi* and *Ujina* collided off West Point.
 5th—Annual meeting United Asbestos Oriental Agency Ltd.—Levee at Government House.—s.s. *Baron Gordon* wrecked on Bombay Shoal.
 6th—Sherwood Foresters Aquatic Sports.
 8th—Big labour strike at Canton concluded.
 9th—China and Manila Co.'s s.s. *Perla* sold to Japan.
 13th—s.s. *Hailoong* with salvage party visited the wreck of the *Aigincourt* at Hainan Island.
 16th—Half yearly meeting Hongkong, Canton and Macao Steamboat Co.
 17th—H. E. the Governor entertained children at the Peak.
 18th—Water Polo shield competition commenced.
 20th—Half yearly meeting Hongkong and Shanghai Banking Corporation.—V.R.C. aquatic carnival.
 22nd—Half yearly meeting Hongkong and Whampoa Dock Co. Ltd.—Mr. C. H. Falloon beat Mr. J. H. Kemp in Chess Club's Championship.
 25th—Typhoon at Hongkong.
 27th—Half yearly meeting Hongkong Hotel Co.—Sir W. M. Goodman, Chief Justice of Hongkong, sailed for Home.

29th—Annual meeting Hongkong Civil Service Cricket Club.

SEPTEMBER.

3rd—Third Gymkhana meeting.
 5th—Opening day V.R.C. Aquatic Sports.
 10th—Annual meeting Hongkong Cotton Spinning, Weaving and Dyeing Co. Ltd.
 13th—Annual meeting Cricket League.
 17th—Opening of Police Recreation Club bowling green at Tsim-Shatsui.
 19th—Craingewower C. C. annual meeting.
 20th—Annual meeting H.K.C.C.
 23rd—Inaugural meeting Hongkong Volunteer Association at City Hall.
 25th—Big fire at No. 4, First Street, West Point.
 26th—R. C. Cathedral campanile finished.—Russian marines interned at Kowloon.
 27th—Annual meeting William Powell Ltd.—River steamer *Sainang* destroyed by fire.
 28th—Annual meeting Hongkong Football Club.—Annual meeting Douglas Steamship Co. Ltd.
 29th—Annual meeting Hongkong Hockey Club—Annual meeting R.H.K.Y.C.—Masonic funeral, Worshipful Brother Lawrence Mallory.

OCTOBER.

5th—Inaugural meeting Kowloon Cricket Club.—Volunteer concert on parallel ground Readjustment of Hongkong Fairway.
 7th—Opening lecture in connection with Hongkong Sanitary Institute.—Improvements effected on Canton river.—French squadron arrived at Hongkong.
 8th—Launch of the *Fathomer* at Kowloon Docks.—Gymkhana Club meeting.—All Comers beat H.K.C.C.'s first eleven.
 9th—Control of Shanghai Woosung Railway vested in Board of Commissioners of Shanghai-Nanking Railway.—R.G.A.C.C. beat Civil Service.—Catholic Union stage “St. Louis in Chains.”
 12th—Interport Shooting begins.
 14th—First drill at Causway Bay of Hongkong Volunteer Mounted Troop.
 15th—H.K.C.C. “A” beat Hongkong Police.—Civil Service C.C. beat R.A.M.C.—V.R.C. “Smoker.”

16th—English team win International walking match at Shanghai.
 17th—Wreck of the *Baron Gordon* abandoned.—Brigands defeat Government troops at Kwangtung.—Pollard's Lilliputians opened at City Hall.
 18th—Piratical attack on West River steamers.
 20th—Annual meeting Union Insurance Society of Canton.
 21st—Annual meeting Canton Insurance Office, Ltd.—Volunteers Camp at Stonecutters.
 22nd—Interport shooting match won by Singapore—Ministering Childrens' League Fancy Fair.—A.O.C.C.C. beat H.K.C.C. “A”—Police Cricket Club beat Civil Service.—Craingewower drew 83rd Co. R.G.A.—H.K.C.C. beat H.M.S. *Tamar*.—H.M.S. *Vengeance* beat H.M.S. *Glory*.
 26th—H.K.F.C. beat Fleet at Rugby.
 27th—H.M.S. *Glory* beat H.K.F.C.
 28th—H.R.H. Prince Adalbert of Prussia visits Hongkong.
 29th—Opening cruise of R.H.K.Y.C.—H.K.F.C. beat United Services under Rugby rules.—Craingewower Cricket Club beat Hongkong Police.
 30th—R.H.K.Y.C. first Club race.

NOVEMBER.

1st—Opening day Shanghai Races.—Baxter School sale of goods at City Hall.—Zone time adopted at Hongkong and coast ports.
 2nd—Orpheus Society's concert at City Hall.
 3rd—Inaugural meeting, District Grand Lodge of Scottish Freemasonry.
 5th—Naval Yard beat H.K.F.C.—2nd R.H.K.Y.C. race.
 8th—Launch of the s.s. *Hawk* at Messrs W. S. Bailey & Co.'s yard.—Annual meeting Hongkong Boat Club.
 9th—King's Birthday parade at Happy Valley.
 10th—Annual meeting Dairy Farm Co. Ltd.
 11th—Interport Cricket opened.—H.M.S. *Vengeance* beat H.K.F.C.
 12th—Fete on Hongkong Cricket Ground.
 14th—H.K.F.C. beat Royal Engineers.
 15th—King's birthday ball at Government House.

16th—Annual meeting Hongkong Chess Club.

18th—Arrival of Royal West Kents.
 19th—V.R.C. beat H.K.F.C.—H.M.S. *Vengeance* beat Sherwood Foresters at Rugby.—R.E.F.C. drew with H.M.S. *Tamar*.
 20th—3rd R.H.K.C. race.
 21st—H.K.C.C.'s “smoker” at City Hall.—Annual meeting Hongkong Odd Volumes Society.

22nd—Fire at Wellington Barracks.
 23rd—Large fire in Godowns at West Point.—H.K.F.C. drew with Y.M.C.A.

24th—Important collision decision in Supreme Court—H.M.S. *Vengeance* beat West Kent Football Club.—H.M.S. *Tamar* beat R.G.A. F.C.

25th—Important decision at Supreme Court re contraband.—Annual meeting Hongkong Steam Waterboat Co., Ltd.—Presentation at the City Hall by H.E. the Governor, of certificates to members of Hongkong Sanitary Institute.—Opening day of Canton Regatta.

26th—Opening of Police Recreation Club.—Navy beat H.K.F.C. at Rugby.—H.M.S. *Vengeance* beat H.M.S. *Thetis* at football.—West Kent footballers beat Sherwood Foresters.—R.G.A.F.C. beat Naval Yard.
 30th—St. Andrews Ball at City Hall.

DECEMBER.

1st—Reopening of Soldiers' Club by H.E. Major-General Villiers Hatton.
 3rd—St. Andrews Stakes at Happy Valley.—H.K.F.C. drew with Naval Yard.
 4th—Duke of Abruzzi arrived at Hongkong.—Fourth R.H.K.Y.C. race.
 6th—Annual meeting China Traders Insurance Co.—Lodge Naval and Military Installation.
 7th—Annual meeting Shanghai and Hongkong Dyeing Co. Ltd.
 8th—Festival at the R.C. Cathedral.—Opening day of Victoria Regatta.—United Services Lodge Installation.
 9th—Fire at No. 325, Des Voeux Road, West.—Laying of foundation stone of new R.C. Church at Kowloon.
 10th—Shoot for championship of Hongkong Gun Club.—Fire at No. 108, Bonham Strand, East.
 11th—R.E. cup race for R.H.K.Y.C. yachts.
 12th—Italian Duke's reception at City Hall.—St. John's Lodge installation.—Trial trip of the *Fathomer*.
 13th—Foundation stone of new Protestant Church at Kowloon laid.—S.S. *Dilwara* arrived with garrison reliefs.
 14th—First meeting of Hongkong Corinthian Yacht Club.—Bazaar at City Hall to aid Chinese Orphans.—German man-of-war sank Yaumati ferry boat.
 16th—Perseverance Lodge installation.—Engineers' and Shipbuilders' ball.
 17th—H.M.S. *Tamar* beat H.K.F.C.—H.M.S. *Glory* beat V.R.C. footballers.—Prize distribution at St. Joseph's College by H.E. the Governor.—Lodge Eastern Scotia installation.—Volunteer sham fight.
 18th—Fifth R.H.K.Y.C. race.
 19th—Hongkong Club at bowls.—Annual meeting Hongkong Navy League.
 20th—H.K.F.C. beat Navy at Rugby.
 21st—Progressive Musical Club's Concert at Wellington Barracks theatre.
 22nd—Victoria Lodge installation.—Opening performance of “Ali Baba” at Catholic Union.
 23rd—Three Europeans sentenced to death for murders in the harbour.—Meeting of Hongkong High Level Tramways Co. Ltd.—R.E.F.C. beat H.K.F.C.

24th—H.K.C.C. v. United Services.—H.K.F.C. beat Navy at Rugby.—R.E.F.C. beat V.R.C.—H.M.S. *Glory* beat Naval Yard F.C.—H.M.S. *Vengeance* beat R.G.A.F.C.
 27th—Zetland Lodge installation.
 28th—R.E. beat H.K.F.C.—Concert at Government House.
 29th—Annual meeting of District Grand Lodge E.C.—Navy beat H.K.F.C. at Rugby.—H.M.S. *Vengeance* beat R.G.A.F.C.—H.M.S. *Albion* footballers beat H.M.S. *Tamar*.
 30th—Kowloon Dock Ball.

31st—H.K.C.C. v. Garrison H.K.F.C. beat H.M.S. *Albion*—Naval Yard F.C. drew with Royal Engineers.—H.M.S. *Albion* beat Taikoo F.C.

SUPREME COURT.

Friday, 30th December.

IN SUMMARY JURISDICTION.

BEFORE HIS HONOUR MR. T. SERCOMBE
SMITH (PUISNE JUDGE).DEUTSCH ASIATISCHE BANK v. THE WUI
SHING HING BANK.

The hearing of this action was continued. The plaintiffs alleged that they had suffered damage by reason of a breach by the defendants of a contract dated the 4th October, 1904, made between the plaintiffs and the defendants, whereby the defendants agreed to purchase from the plaintiffs a sterling draft on London, payable on demand for the sum of £2,000 sterling at exchange 1s. 9½d. and which said contract was to complete their purchase on the 30th November, 1904, and the plaintiffs had suffered damages to the extent of \$785.85 by the defendants' breach of their contract.

As before, Mr. H. E. Pollock, K.C., instructed by Mr. H. J. Gedge (of Messrs. Johnson, Stokes and Master) appeared for the plaintiff bank; and Mr. N. Ferrers, instructed by Mr. P. W. Goldring (of Mr. G. K. H. Bruton's office), for the defendant bank.

Mr. H. Figge, manager of the Deutsch Asiatische Bank, deposed: An effort to compromise reached my hearing on the 3rd December. I saw three strange men inside the bank, and one of them was brought to me by the Compradore. \$1,000 was offered in settlement of this and other matters between our bank and the defendant bank. I refused.

Cross-examined—The Compradore does no business which is not referred to me; he vouches for the Chinese whom he introduces. In my private book Chinese customers may be mentioned merely as Chinese, but in the other books it is different. Should there be any loss in this matter it would fall on the Compradore. I do not know how they (the Chinese) would manage in such a case. For all I know they might divide the loss among themselves. The demand draft was not an actual draft; I have to sell it later. An original draft was not in existence, but I had to draw one later to cover myself. If the defendants had paid the \$785.84 I should not have had to draw a fresh draft to cover myself. Say, for instance, that I sell to any man £1,000; this £1,000 I buy, if possible, at once. If I failed to do so I should be speculating on exchange. I buy this thousand; if it is not taken up I have to sell again to cover my purchase. The original draft was not drawn because it was not taken up, but two others were. A draft cannot be drawn till the demand draft is due.

Mr. Ferrers—If these two are taken up in January no demand draft will have to be drawn?

Witness—I have to cover myself. If he pays the difference he comes to me and offers that I should buy what I have sold to him, and I have to sell to someone else—against this I have to sell some man sterling.

Mr. Ferrers—All this is fictitious!

Mr. Figge—It is not fictitious.

Witness—They will be drawn to someone else, but not to him.

Mr. Ferrers—Is it not true that you would not do anything, but just take the difference. Is not all this something nothing?

Witness—No. I have to cover myself, and sell to someone else—secure myself. There is nothing more as far as the man is concerned, but there is as far as the bank is concerned.

Mr. Ferrers—Would it not be possible to do as I say?

Witness—Yes, but if I did so I am afraid I would be dismissed to-morrow.

Mr. Ferrers—He would have made profit if exchange had gone down?

Witness—It all depends what he did with the money; he might have bought goods which had gone home.

Mr. Ferrers—You must admit this; we will get no further if you do not (Laughter).

Witness—There are, of course, speculations in exchange at Hongkong. If a man has no other business in connection with a transaction like this it is speculation in exchange—dealing in differences I object to deal in differences.

Mr. Ferrers—I suppose it is done outside?

Witness—I would not like to give an opinion on other people's business.

Re-examined—I did actually sell to cover myself; I had sold to him originally £2,000, and had to buy a similar amount. Some assets of the bank are kept in sterling, and some in dollars. These transactions have to be kept equally balanced, as much as possible, each day I may be a few days overdue, but I have to balance each day if possible.

Further evidence was led, and the case adjourned.

THE HO FAT KEE v. LI KAN TAI.

The hearing of this action came on for the third time. The plaintiff claimed \$150 plus \$10.50, \$10 being costs and \$0.50 expense on account of a bailiff. Mr. O. D. Thomson appeared on behalf of the plaintiff firm of contractors, doing business at No. 49, Queen's Road East. The defendant, a junk owner whose junk is under arrest, was represented by Mr. Dixon (of Mr. John Hasting's office). The plaintiff alleged that the money had been lent by him to the defendant.

At the previous hearing the defendant said he had paid the money to Ho Fat, a partner in the Ho Fat Kee shop, and a witness for the defence said he had seen Ho Fat at a quarter to two that afternoon, just outside the Supreme Court, but, instead of waiting to give evidence, he had gone off in a ricksha with the plaintiff.

Ho Fat appeared in Court and gave evidence. He said that he was one of the partners in the Ho Fat Kee, he had been repaid the money in question, and the receipt produced by the defendant was a true one. On the previous occasion he had come to the Court to give evidence, when he met the plaintiff, who managed the business. The plaintiff told him to go to the shop, saying that the matter before the Court did not concern him—it was a matter between Ma Seung Tong and Li Kan Tai, the defendant. The plaintiff then took him to Mr. Thomson's office, where he was detained. They said the police wanted to arrest him, and he was shoved into a closet.

His Honour asked the plaintiff to show reason why he should not be sent to prison for wilful perjury.

The plaintiff said that Ho Fat was not a partner, and there was no proof that he had received the money.

His Honour sentenced the man to six weeks' hard labour, and gave judgment for the defendant with costs.

Wednesday, 4th January.

IN APPELLATE JURISDICTION.

BEFORE SIR H. S. BERKELEY (CHIEF JUSTICE)
AND MR. T. SERCOMBE SMITH
(PUISNE JUDGE).

TANG TSZ U v. THE ATTORNEY-GENERAL.

The sixth day of the hearing of this appeal. As before, Messrs. M. W. Slade and H. G. Calthrop, instructed by Mr. J. Harston, appeared for the appellant; the Hon. E. H. Sharp, K.C., and Mr. H. E. Pollock, K.C., instructed by Mr. F. B. L. Bowley (Crown Solicitor), for the Attorney-General.

Mr. Slade continuing his case for the appellant said that when the Court rose (on the 16th ult.) he had dealt with the preliminary historical matter connected with the case, and was about to deal with the question arising as to the effect of certain documents relating to the obligations and duties of the Crown—or the Chinese Government—with respect to reclamation. The first question which had to be dealt with was the date when land was liable under Chinese law, to taxation—to be assessed for taxation, *shing-fo*. As applying to sand banks the time laid down was six years. When considering the effect of the regulations laid down in the rules for the Board of Revenue it was most important to recognise that there was additional taxation in Kwantung—the *chik-lo* tax—which according to the evidence of the Crown as far as he could see, would be included in the *shing-fo* taxation. He had already shown that the *chik-lo* tax was included in the regular land tax imposed on land before it was under cultivation. The appellant's case was that under the rules of the Board of Revenue land was not assessed to the regular land tax till it was productive.

Hon. Mr. Sharp—I think it is common ground, but we say no tax is levied on unproductive land.

The Chief Justice—However that may be, no tax was paid.

Mr. Slade—It was not paid because it was never asked for.

The Chief Justice—The conclusion that it was never asked for is arrived at—?

Mr. Slade—On the evidence.

Hon. Mr. Sharp—I do not think there is any such evidence.

Mr. Slade—When is the time for assessment under the general law? Our case is that if the land is not fertile assessment is postponed, while the Crown's case is that if the land is not fertile the grant is cancelled.

The Puisne Judge—That is within the six years.

Hon. Mr. Sharp—We say brought under cultivation.

Mr. Slade—Note my friend's words, My Lord! A distinction has been drawn between brought under cultivation and fertile.

The Chief Justice—Land brought under cultivation is fertile.

Hon. Mr. Sharp—Exactly, that is the only distinction we draw.

Mr. Slade continued his argument all day, the case being adjourned.

Thursday, 5th January.

IN APPELLATE JURISDICTION.

BEFORE SIR H. S. BERKELEY (CHIEF JUSTICE)
AND MR. T. SERCOMBE SMITH
(PUISNE JUDGE).

TANG TSZ U v. THE ATTORNEY-GENERAL.

The seventh day of the hearing of this appeal. As before, Messrs. M. W. Slade and H. G. Calthrop, instructed by Mr. J. Harston, appeared for the appellant; the Hon. E. H. Sharp, K.C., and Mr. H. E. Pollock, K.C., instructed by Mr. F. B. L. Bowley (Crown Solicitor), for the Attorney-General.

Mr. Slade again addressed the Court on behalf of the appellant all day. In his opening remarks, previous to discussing translations in detail, he said—When we rose I was about to deal with a passage from the rules of the Board of Revenue, which as translated contains the only direction that has been put forward that reclamation shall be made within a certain time—that is the only passage laid down stating that there is a time-limit for reclamation. The first comment I make with regard to that limit—water fields must be brought under cultivation within six years; dry fields within ten years—is that in the original document no words for "must be" occur.

In the afternoon the case was adjourned.

MARINE MAGISTRATE'S
COURT.

Friday, 30th December.

BEFORE HON. CAPT. L. A. W. BARNES-
LAWRENCE (MARINE MAGISTRATE).

DISOBEDIENCE OF LAWFUL ORDERS.

William Lewis Smith, master of the s.s. *Ard-va*, charged J. H. Perkins, boatswain of the said ship, with wilfully disobeying lawful orders on the 30th instant, in Victoria Harbour.

William Lewis Smith deposed:—On the night of the 27th, defendant went ashore without permission. He returned this (Friday) morning and refused to proceed with his work. He also refused to proceed to sea.

By the Court: Defendant appeared to be sober.

Defendant stated:—I do not refuse duty. I only refuse to go to sea, because I cannot get on with some of the crew.

By the Court:—I persist in my refusal not to go in the ship.

The Magistrate sentenced the defendant to be deprived of two days' pay; to be imprisoned for two weeks with hard labour, and to be placed back on his ship should he leave before the expiration of the sentence.

CANTON.

[FROM OUR CORRESPONDENT]

4th January.

KWANGSI REBELLION QUELLED.

It is reported that His Excellency Shum, the Viceroy of Canton, having successfully quelled the rebellion in Kwangsi will soon return to Canton. On account of the frequent robberies here it is desirable that he should come back to deal particularly with more important affairs. Such is the message wired to him by the Cantonese officials in Peking.

FARMING TAXES

Chow Sui Cheung and others of the wealthiest class in Canton having formed three companies under the names of Kung Yik, Po Leung, and Po On with a view to taking a monopoly of the various sundry taxes, have presented a petition to the Viceroy offering to pay to the Government fourte n millions five hundred and fifty thousand dollars for the privilege of taxing the people; and His Excellency the Viceroy Shum in rejecting such proposal, and in answer to the petition, says: The amount the petitioners propose to the Government is really very great, and it is a great temptation; but the question is, whom is the money to come from? It must be robbed and squeezed from the people, which might cause a revolution, and which no civilized power would allow. For instance, the petitioners propose to tax the suitors the same as buying and selling wares in market. If we allow this, it would be letting loose hundreds and thousands of wolves and tigers in all the districts and towns of China to prey upon the people, which might bring on a revolution. As to taxing the brides and bridegrooms, concubines, and servant girls in China, we have no law that prohibits marriage, a husband from taking concubines, or buying or selling girls. For thousands of years our government have treated the people with indulgence and benevolence, and there should not be any special license or squeeze under these circumstances. As to taxing upon the prostitutes, brothels, and restaurants frequented by prostitutes, from the very ancient annals I cannot find any law that imposes such taxes upon this class of people. They are earning a shameful livelihood. If we were to take such ill-gotten money from them it would be infamous. As to taxing the actors, we have already taxed them; if we tax them more, say 20 per cent. upon their earnings, they will not be satisfied. As to taxation upon all mortgages and sales of houses, fields, and lands, and charge the purchaser five per cent. upon the purchase money on stamped paper, and then one tael four mace and four candareens on every hundred dollars upon change of new lease for every house annually, there being so many houses and lands in Kwang Tung, the amount would be too exorbitant, and the interest being in most cases gainer by the transaction, China would be in danger. Not long ago the people have had their old leases changed for new ones, and if we were to change them again it would lead to vexatious complaints without end. As to taxation upon the joss-houses, ancestral temples, monasteries, and convents, they have been paying taxes for the maintenance of schools and colleges, and it would not be advisable to tax them more, because they are religious institutions. If we were to tax the public latrines, even the dirtiest of coolies would ridicule us. As to the taxation of boats, we have had enough trouble, and if we tax them again it would lead to another fresh disturbance and obstruction of business. As to the proposal of the petitioners to place a certain limit upon the number of shops and houses in Canton, and to compel them to register themselves yearly upon payment of ten taels for each house, it is an abnormality, for there is no law even in the Western countries to place restrictions upon commercial houses. Further, the petitioners promise to guarantee the shopkeepers and merchants against the blackmailing and attack of robbers, and in case there be any attack or robbery, they will pay for the things lost. Is it not an absurdity? How much money have the petitioners to provide against such contingency? It is a slur upon our Government. As to taxation

upon the gambling houses for the maintenance of police, we have already done so, and the opium divans have also contributed their mites monthly. As to the taxation upon houses, we have already done so, and it is improper to tax them twice over. As to the employment of one thousand braves, seven hundred cavalry, and building four men-of-war for the protection of commerce, it is equally absurd, for it interferes with the policy of Government. As the people of Canton are already labouring under the burden of heavy taxation it would be a shame to tax them more. It seems that your main object is to gain money, and if you were allowed to have power over the army and navy, it would be dangerous to our Government. It is true that the Government treasury is empty, and I am exceedingly distressed to find it so; but I must not allow you this opportunity to rob the people. I have received instructions from our Imperial Government not to impose any small vexatious taxation. You belong to the same race, and are descended from the same ancestors, and whenever any one of you makes any such scandalous proposal to catch the people in the net for your benefit you are sure to incur my ire and be censured publicly. So, under these circumstances, I have ordered the Board of Reorganization to put up a notification to publicly censure the petitioners.

SEVERE TREATMENT OF A SIMPLTON.

Five days ago a stupid kind of a man went straight into the reception room in the Viceroy's yamen, and the guards seeing him trespassing stopped him, and took him into the yamen of the Nam Hoi magistrate. At the trial for trespass the Weiuyin asked him a few questions and he stood mute. The former ordered him to be bambooed two hundred blows on the breeches and then he said his surname was Shum (same surname as the Viceroy). Asked again what province he belonged to, he said Kwangsi. Why he went into the Viceroy's yamen, he said he was looking for a countryman. Who was his countryman he did not answer. Thereupon the Weiuyin again ordered him to be flogged several hundred blows, and put him in gaol.

ECONOMICAL CONVERSIONS.

A Japanese Buddhist priest was preaching sometimes in the streets and sometimes in joss-houses, attracting a large audience, and had gained over many converts. Of late on account of the Chinese officials compelling the joss-houses, monasteries, and convents to pay taxes for the keeping of schools and colleges where pupils are taught in English and Chinese, a great number of priests have changed their religion, and joined that of Japan for protection.

TO CANE THE SCHOOLMASTER.

A certain Chinese by name Charles Wong, who has been to America, wears European dress, and has his queue cut off, is a teacher of English in several schools in Canton. One day, as he was passing along in a mountain chair, the provincial governor had to pass too in a long train in an opposite direction. As customary whenever a high official passes, the pedestrians have to stop and stand by until the procession passes, and then they walk on; if anyone rushes on towards the procession it is called Chwang Tao, and he may be arrested and punished by bambooing on the breeches. But in the present instance Charles did not stop his chair to let the gubernatorial procession pass, but went on in a "care for nobody" style. The governor being offended sent to ask who he was, and on learning that he was a schoolmaster by the uniform of his chair coolies, went back to yamen, and next day sent an order to have him arrested and bambooed; because he was obstructing the official way. When Charles knew it, he ran away from Canton.

5th January.

FIRES.

The number of fires here has been remarkable this year. The Honam fire of Friday last, of which you have had full details, is said to be the most destructive for many years. On Saturday afternoon, another burnt out several houses at Tangsha, and on Monday night there was another near the Shap Sam Hong quarter.

The extraordinary frequency of fires in the winter is, I believe, a feature of all Chinese city life. The fire-brigades are usually able to cope with the fires in a very short time; and

bags are used to check their course, and are generally successful.

People rendered homeless by these fires are not reduced to immediate beggary. I made inquiries of a Chinese friend on this point, and was told that most people have friends with a spare room at their disposal—rents not being high. The work of rebuilding begins very soon in some cases, though for the most part matsheds are run up, where the sufferers wait till their landlord can scrape together enough to build again.

THE VICEROY.

There are no indications of the Viceroy's return; his family has gone to Wuchow, and he has ordered his two secretaries, Tao-tai Wen and Yao, to be with him alternately for periods of a fortnight. The latest news is that H.E.'s health is better.

SAILORS AND LIQUOR SHOPS.

There has been from time to time a good deal of trouble arising from the drink sold to foreign sailors at Chinese liquor-shops near Sha-Kee. Twice at least serious trouble has been caused, the latest affair being that of the West bridge. Now it is understood that the authorities, acting by the request of the Consuls, have prohibited the sale of liquor to foreign sailors under heavy penalties. The same order has had to be given in other ports on various occasions.

MILITARY GRADUATES.

The Military College has just sent out its first batch of "graduates," who have been given commissions with Imperial brigades, or sent as instructors to the depots; while some have been ordered to Japan for further study. An examination was held recently for 100 vacancies; the medical examination before admission is, I believe, very strict, which is a step in the right direction.

KOWLOON NOTES.

THE NEW STEAM LAUNDRY.

Everything is ready for commencing the building of the new steam laundry near the Sumigai station, between Yaumati and Kowloon City. Lin Wo (of the Hop Yik) is the contractor, and Messrs. Leigh and Orange the architects. It will be a large concern.

RECLAMATION WORK.

The reclamation work at the extremity of the Peninsula is progressing favourably. Another hundred yards or so in an easterly direction towards Blackhead's Pier is now being attended to. The mound at the back of the Glass Works is being gradually removed.

FILLING IN WATER HOLES.

Some filthy waterholes at Hunghom, just before arriving at the Kowloon Docks, are being filled in, and the ground, when level should be a valuable building site. Earth for this purpose is being taken by a light railway from the hills behind Inland Lots Nos. 222 and 223.

THE NEW ROAD.

The new road from the back of Hunghom to Yaumati is almost finished. It will, amongst other things, make a fine carriage-drive through King's Park. It is the finest road in the Colony, and is a credit alike to those who made it and to Kowloon. A line of telephone poles runs along the centre of the road. All the turf on the left, near the Barracks, has been laid.

THE HONGKONG TRAMS.

The Chinese are learning to keep out of the way of the trams now, and there is less clangour from the alarm gongs. Considerable improvement is noticeable all round.

A regular service of cars to the Race Course has commenced, a points van being stationed at the junction near the Bowrington Canal to direct the cars off the main line. The cars return via Observation Place.

It seems a pity that a few special cars do not run right through from Hongkong to the Shaukiwan terminus, so as to give tourists a chance to see the whole route without changing at Causeway Bay. This is a very great inconvenience, particularly to strangers who cannot make themselves understood by Chinese. They have to alight at Causeway Bay and to wait perhaps ten or twenty minutes before there is a car to take them on.

**THE EWO COTTON SPINNING
AND WEAVING CO., LTD.**

The ninth ordinary meeting of this Company was held at Shanghai on December 23, Mr. H. Keswick in the chair. There were present Messrs. A. McLeod, P. F. Lavers, Lee Quang-ying (members of the Consulting Committee), Jas. McKie (Acting as Secretary), W. C. Murray, J. Kerfoot, B. A. Clarke, H. J. Clark, Moosa, Yuen Chong, and J. M. Young.

The Chairman—Gentlemen.—The report and accounts were circulated to shareholders some twelve days ago and with your permission I will not detain you by repeating them, but regard their contents as read. We have to report to you a very disappointing year, for whereas we made quite a satisfactory profit on the first six months' working, the adverse circumstances which are referred to in the report resulted in the mill running at a loss during the latter part of the period under review. Our first reverse was the immediate result of the outbreak of hostilities between Russia and Japan, which not only entirely stopped clearances of yarns already sold to Northern outlets, but caused an accumulation of stocks on all of which interest charges absorbed the working margins. Then, later in our financial year, we had as a result of famine prices prevailing for American cotton, an unusually strong demand for export, which resulted in the price of the locally grown staple touching a level that rendered it impossible to spin yarn at a profit. In connection with the figures submitted to you, it will be noticed that the balance at credit of Working Account is Tls. 71,137.30, which shrinks to practically nothing when deductions are made for the very heavy item of interest charges to which I have already referred, and for the concurrent heavy insurance premia incurred for the same reason. The balance at credit of Profit and Loss account, Tls. 12,844.76, it is proposed to carry forward to current year. The sum of Tls. 10,245.00 has been spent on renewals and repairs to machinery, and our mill manager submits a very satisfactory report under this heading; indeed, we are turning out as heavy a weight of yarn as the mill has ever recorded since its construction. As regards the future I have pleasure in stating that the mill's production up to May 1905 has been sold at a profit, and we can only hope that we may be more successful in the latter part of next year than we have been in 1904.

There is one thing further. You will have no doubt noticed in a report of a meeting of another company on the other side of the river that there was considerable criticism, and a certain shareholder, according to the printed reports, complained that although an enormous piece goods business was going on, yet at that time there were no large clearances of yarn from stock. It is quite true that there is a large business, but it is for further delivery in March and April next year, and this applies equally in our case. I shall be pleased to answer any questions from shareholders.

There being no questions, the following resolutions were passed without comment:—

Proposed by the Chairman, seconded by Mr. A. McLeod:—That the report and accounts as published and circulated to the shareholders, be adopted.

Proposed by Mr. Brodie A. Clarke, seconded by Mr. H. J. Clark:—That the retiring Consulting Committee be re-elected for the ensuing year.

Proposed by Mr. W. C. Murray, seconded by Mr. Yuen Chong: That Mr. G. R. Wingrove be re-elected auditor.—*N.-G. Daily News.*

**THE AMERICAN ASSOCIATION
IN CHINA.**

This Association held its annual meeting at Shanghai on Dec. 29th. The membership now numbers one hundred and thirty six. The report recorded the death of one of our old resident members, Mr. Rufus F. Eastlack, who passed away on the 5th May, 1904, at Shanghai. Remembering his long residence of more than forty years in China, his example as an American of highest integrity, and his record as a courteous and worthy consular official, the Committee prepared Resolutions, as memorial to Mr. Eastlack, and copies of these were

sent to friends of the deceased. We have also to record the sad death of a non-resident member, Mr. Norman McGee, formerly of the Nanyang College, Shanghai, who died in Colorado, U.S.A., in the month of September and is deeply mourned."

Concerning mining, the report said: "The guiding principle in the new arrangements made for the opening of mines, appears to be, at any rate to the foreign observer, a desire to shut out foreign capital and foreign advice as much as possible. Now, while recognising China's sovereign rights in all these matters and the great danger of the effect of unprincipled foreign adventure, by which interested parties may try to get control of the resources of China for their own selfish advantage, yet it is manifestly visionary for China to shut out foreign capital and foreign advice *in toto*, for she is not in a position to develop her own resources entirely alone and by herself and will find in time, as all other countries have done, that it is necessary to welcome foreign capital, to an extent at least. It is, therefore, in a spirit of the greatest friendship toward China herself that your Committee has joined in certain measures in regard to the new regulations.

"A comparison was published in the columns of the July issue of our journal calling attention to the change apparent in the Mining Regulations of 1904 as compared with those of 1902.

The Committee, having been informed that the American Minister at Peking had filed a general protest against the new Mining Regulations, expressed itself as in accord with the action which he had taken.

"The 'Regulations of the Mining Syndicate of the Province of Hunan,' as published in the Press of Shanghai, also exhibited this same spirit of a desire entirely to prevent foreign capital from helping China. On the supposition that the translation, as published, was a correct translation, your Committee seemed justified in considering, that since foreigners were prohibited from holding shares in the Syndicate, this was a matter of importance to all Americans in China, as a far-reaching precedent not to be agreed to for one moment, for, on reading the terms of the concession as printed, in connection with Article VII of the American Treaty, which was ratified in January of 1904 between the United States and China, your Committee was forced to conclude that the provisions of that treaty had been wholly ignored. By correspondence with the American Consul-General at Shanghai, the Committee was informed that the protest, which they then made, in regard to the Hunan Mining Regulations, had been transmitted to the American Minister at Peking, and that in reply he had said that these regulations undoubtedly violated the provisions of our Treaty and that he, as well as some of the other diplomatic representatives, had made a strong protest against them."

The report went on to explain what had been done with regard to the new Trade Marks Regulations; to speak of the "eminent service" of Professor Jenks in the matter of currency reform; to deal with the Huangpoo conservancy question, and other matters of general interest to Americans.—Mr. J. N. Jameson was elected president.

**CHINESE EMIGRANTS TO
AUSTRALIA.**

**ALLEGED ATTEMPTED FORGERY AND
CONSPIRACY.**

Wong Chuk Yau and Wong Tim were charged before Mr. Gompertz on the 29th inst. with (1) Fraudulently, Hau Tim, of the sum of £850 (2) and (3) Unlawfully attempting to defraud and deceive the China Navigation and Eastern and Australian S.S. Companies by obtaining from the said companies a passenger ticket for one Hau Tim, to enable him to personate one, Ah Wai. Wong Chuk Yau was further charged with the attempted forgery of an Australian Immigration certificate in order to evade the poll tax. Mr. F. B. L. Bowley, the Crown Solicitor instructed by Chief Detective Inspector Hanson, prosecuted and Mr. G. K. H. Brutton represented the first defendant, Wong Chuk Yau.

Mr. Brutton contended, with regard to the second and third charges, that both companies could not be defrauded by the same individual,

therefore the complainants should decide which charge they were going to proceed on. A man must know what he is going to be tried for.

Mr. Bowley said it was the usual practice in framing indictments to frame intent in different ways.

His Worship made a note of the objection, and said he would give a ruling upon it before Mr. Brutton was called on for his defence.

Mr. Bowley, in opening the case, said it was a matter of common knowledge that Chinese were not allowed to enter Australia at the present time unless they had naturalisation papers, exemption papers, or special permits to allow them to do so. There had been a great many complaints from the different Governments of the Colonies of Chinese attempting to get in with false papers. As a result of these complaints, enquiries were made by the Police, who obtained certain information. They laid a trap, wherein the first defendant was caught. A man called Hau Tim was sent by the Police to endeavour to purchase papers which would enable him to obtain access to the Australian Colonies. On the 13th November he went to the second floor of No. 151, Connaught Road West, where the prisoners lived. The first prisoner carries on business on the second floor, and uses the firm name of Chan Hop. Hau Tim went to the Chan Hop and asked the first defendant if he could get him a paper by which he could go to Australia. The defendant said "Yes, I have papers. Have you money?" He further guaranteed that for £850, Hau Tim should enter Australia safely. The defendant said he must have money on account, so Hau Tim went away. He returned next day, and paid, in the presence of the second defendant, £50 as bargain money. The first defendant represented to Hau Tim that it would take some time to get the papers ready, and that it would be necessary for him to be photographed. On the 10th December Hau Tim went with the second defendant to a photographer's, where he was photographed, and paid the second defendant £1.40, which was represented to him to be the cost of the photograph. At a later date the second defendant went to the photographer's shop and got two prints, for which he paid forty cents.

At this stage Mr. Brutton asked that the prisoners be charged separately unless the complainants were willing to drop the charge of forgery, as he might wish to call the second defendant as a witness.

It was agreed that the charge of forgery be heard after the charge of conspiracy.

Mr. Bowley continuing said:—On the 19th instant the witness, Hau Tim, went with a clansman to see the prisoners again. He spoke about the papers, and the first defendant said he would give them to him (Hau Tim) when he paid the money. On the 20th witness went again, accompanied by his clansman. The first defendant asked about the money, and witness said he had it, and asked to see the papers. The first prisoner then went into a cubicle and brought out some papers which he handed to Hau Tim, and asked for the money. Hau Tim said the money was not quite ready. He handed the papers to his clansman and went downstairs and brought Inspector Hanson up. The Inspector took possession of the papers, and found they consisted of letters of naturalisation issued by the Colony of South Australia to a man named Ah Wai. A photograph of Hau Tim was on one of the papers, and there was also attached a piece of paper containing Chinese characters which, I will show, was in the nature of instructions to Hau Tim as to how he was to use his naturalisation paper. I shall call evidence to prove that with these papers, Hau Tim could have gone to the steamship offices, and by representing himself to be the man named on the paper, procured a ticket to Australia. The second defendant was arrested on Wednesday night on a charge of conspiracy.

The first witness was Hau Tim, who declared:—I went to No. 151, Connaught Road West, on the 13th November last. I saw the first and second prisoners. I asked the first prisoner whether he had any cum shan (papers for Australia) papers. He said "Which cum shan?" I answered "Sun cum shan" (papers for South Australia). He said, "I have. Have you got money?" I asked him how much he wanted. He said "£850," and

asked me to bring him \$50 first. The second defendant was present.

Mr. Brutton objected to the last question as not being evidence. It was for the prosecution to prove a charge of conspiracy, and apparently they were trying to get out in evidence certain facts in connection with the conspiracy which had not been proved.

After considerable argument His Worship overruled Mr. Brutton's objection.

Hau Tim, continuing:—I think he could hear what was said. On the following day I returned to the shop. The first defendant said "You deposit \$50 and I will give you a receipt and proceed to make the paper for you." I paid the money and the first defendant gave a receipt which he chopped. He said he would write to me when the paper was ready. I received a letter on the 4th Dec. I again called at defendant's shop. He asked me if I had the money ready. The second defendant was present. I said I would bring the money another day. I asked the first defendant when he would have the paper ready. He said "If you deposit more money you can have the paper." I then went away. On the 9th instant I got another letter from the first defendant. I again went to see him. The two prisoners were present. The first defendant asked me to go to a photographer's shop to have my photo taken. I was photographed on the 10th instant. I paid \$1.40 to the second defendant, being the price for the photo. On the 11th I received another letter from the first defendant. I again called at his shop. The second defendant was present. The first defendant said "When I get your photo I will give you the paper. When it is ready I will write to you." The first defendant sent me another letter on the 12th December. I called on him the same evening. He asked me if I had the money ready. The second defendant was present. I said, "The money will be ready in another day. Will you have the paper ready?" On the evening of the 17th I went to the Chan Hop. I asked the first defendant about the paper. He said "It is ready now." I returned again on the 19th, when both defendants were present. I asked the first about the paper. He said "Yes, I have it ready." He showed it to me. He asked me whether I brought the money.

On Jan. 5th the charge against Wong Chuk Yau, of attempting to forge an Australian Immigration certificate, was withdrawn.

The next witness called was Lau Kun Hing, Master of the Ying Fong Photographer's shop. He said:—I printed two prints from the negative produced. Wong Tim came and took them on the 16th December. I was paid 40 cents for them by Wong Tim. I was not paid \$1.40 as stated.

Cross-examined by Mr. Brutton: I did not tell the last witness that the price of the photographs was 40 cents. I told the second defendant when he came to take them. I did not tell him the price when he came to have the photographs taken. I did not print the photographs myself and could not say whether more than two prints were taken. The last witness came in while I was conversing with Wong Tim.

John William Hudson, Chief Detective Inspector, deposed:—On 20th ult. I went to No. 151, Connaught Road West. I had several Police officers with me, also the first witness Hau Tim, and his clansman, Hau Sui. I sent Hau Tim and his clansman upstairs and waited below. I had given them certain instructions. After five minutes Hau Tim came down stairs and I followed him up. I went into a room where I saw the first defendant seated at a table. Hau Sui was seated on the corner of a Chinese settee with something in his hand. A Detective Sergeant who was with me asked him "What are you doing here? Hau Sui answered "Trying to get a naturalisation paper." I took from Hau Sui a naturalisation paper he was holding, also a photograph. As I took them from him he said—"These are what I am to use to go with." I turned round to the first defendant and asked if the photograph went on the back of the naturalisation paper. He said, "Yes." I asked the total amount required to reach "Kam shan." Hau Sui answered "\$350." The first defendant

heard it. I searched him and found the key of a safe on his person. I found the safe in a cubicle on the third floor. I opened it, and found a lot of old naturalisation certificates besides a sum of money. The papers referred to different parts of Australia, Canada and the Hawaiian Islands. There was also a miscellaneous lot of papers relating to emigration. While I was searching the papers the defendant said "These are old papers. Some were left with me by people who intend to return." I then took the first defendant to the Police Station, and arrested the second defendant on the 28th ult. When I arrested the second defendant he said he was in the employ of the first.

The case was remanded till January 10th, bail being allowed the first defendant in the sum of \$5,000, and the second in the sum of \$2,000.

CORRESPONDENCE.

"CUM SHAN."

TO THE EDITOR OF THE "DAILY PRESS."

30th December.

SIR.—With reference to the report in your issue of to-day, concerning the case at present being heard by Mr. Gompertz, where Hau Tim, the police agent, is quoted as having asked the first defendant if he had for sale any "Cum shan" papers, may I be permitted to point out that the translation given for this expression ("papers for Australia") is quite erroneous. It means, used in this form, simply and only California, but may be sometimes taken to mean the whole of the American continent, or at least the United States. If a Chinaman wishes to speak about Australia, he uses the prefix "Sun" (new) and says Sun Kam or Cum Shan (i. e. New Golden Hills), and if he desires to be very explicit, he says for California "Kau" (old) Cum Shan, but the two words Cum Shan only never mean anything but California and the U.S., likewise the three words "Sun Cum Shan" do not by any means imply only South Australia, as stated in your report, but the whole of the Commonwealth.—Yours very faithfully,

N.G.O.

THE DOUGLAS S.S. CO.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE "DAILY PRESS."

1st January.

SIR.—There is a rumour that the Douglas S.S. Co. intend building a new boat for the Formosa trade; in other words, the Company propose to extend their business. The question now arises whether an extension of business can be warranted in any enterprise on any other lines than such as are profitable to those concerned. We all know that this Company in particular for many a year has only learned to earn the dissatisfaction of the shareholders by the poor results shown in their accounts from year to year. In fact, the continued disappointment with which the shareholders receive the reports of the Company from time to time has already created in many a shareholder the deepest rooted feeling that the sooner the Company be wound up and the capital returned to them the better. As a matter of fact, shareholders can employ their money better. They have been told all the time that the competition on the coast has been very keen and the Company can hardly cope with the subsidised Japanese—and yet in the face of this they are trying to launch into additional unprofitable enterprises by increasing an already non-remunerative fleet. Yours truly,

A SHAREHOLDER.

RE THE SAMPAN OUTRAGE.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE "DAILY PRESS."

Hongkong, 5th January.

SIR.—I see in your issue of this morning that in the matter of a proposed reprieve of the boy prisoner through the favour of the Chinese community, you say the chief "argument" adduced is that as two lives only were lost, two hangings should suffice! This of course is not correct, and altogether

opposed to English law, and common sense! The chief "argument," as you call it, is that as the men have been condemned to death, and rightly so, for their reckless disregard of life, and the sentence will be carried out in a day or two, it simply remains with the Chinese community to show that they are capable of kindly feeling, and are not vindictive owing to more or less recent cases of evasion of justice in other ports.

Our Judge and Jury have shown them that the English law knows not the word "favour," but that rich and poor are served alike, and unless they choose to ask (and even then it might not be granted) for the life of the boy prisoner, the law will take its full course. Now it is not always pleasant to ask a favour, and in such a case as the present it may be doubly unpleasant, but it affords our Chinese friends an opportunity to prove their magnanimity. If they don't care to interest themselves by petitioning His Excellency the Governor, there is nothing more to be said and the boy will be hanged. Would our Chinese friends not feel better satisfied with themselves if they were instrumental in saving the life of this young boy, than if they allowed the law to take its course? It is not interference on their part at all. They, and only they, might get the boy's sentence commuted to penal servitude for life, a sufficiently hard sentence for being led into such a stupid reckless enterprise by older men. He would go into gaol a boy, and come out an old man almost, if he lived. If they allow the opportunity to pass, what can be thought of them! The influential men lead the lower orders. They are the representatives, and they surely have sufficient courage to act humanely. The lower orders would not have a voice at all in China, but here their representatives can surely be trusted to take the right course in such a case?

The Chinese will understand, of course, that the Europeans cannot petition the Governor—for obvious reasons—and His Excellency would only thank the Chinese petitioners; even if he did not see his way to accede to their request.—Yours sincerely,

"THE EUROPEAN."

IN JAPAN JUST NOW.

We have permission to publish the following extract from a letter addressed to a gentleman in Hongkong:—

All sensible people, those amongst our Japanese friends too (but too numerous unfortunately) wish fervently that the leaders of the two nations may soon see the folly of this game of the Kilkenny cat, and call: "Arms down!" There is really enough room yet for both of them in the East, and how often has it come true that he who wants too much gets nothing. The war so far has been an eye-opener to the Russians and a harder nut to the Japanese to crack than they imagined. I hear that this year's campaign was planned for the possession of Mukden as the most moderate goal, but if the decision does not come soon they will not so soon get to Harbin as they expected, and it will simply become a question who can stand the strain longest. From what one can gather, Japanese resources are plentiful yet, but all the same the burden of the war lies heavily on the people. Until the beginning of autumn there was rejoicing and hilarity, processions and music whenever there was a small or great success. For months past, however, things have become very quiet, and everywhere war sighs about the terror of this war. Especially since the fearful losses came home to them, when some garrison towns have two or three times more wounded in their hospitals than the garrison formerly amounted to. The care for the wounded is admirable. The ladies of the towns form assistant nursing corps, spacious barracks are built for the wounded, when they are sufficiently recovered they are sent to one of the numerous bathing-places. Also the relatives of those fallen in battle are liberally provided for with grants of money and pensions, graduated according to the rank of the dead. What the casualties have been so far is not publicly known, as the official figures always leave out Port Arthur. European estimates are likely to be far below the mark, as the wounded brought back to Japan seem to

number tens of thousands more than the casualties given out. It cannot be wondered that an as yet undefined feeling seems to gain ground that a European intervention would be a godsend. But it is doubtful if any Power will risk the suggestion. When English surmises were hawked about that Germany would propose to mediate (quite unjustified rumours it seems) there was such a storm of abuse and ill-feeling in this country that Germany or any other Power would be fools if they exposed themselves to something similar again. For this would undoubtedly be the case, as by any peace without Russia being at the mercy of the victor Japan can never succeed in getting her aspirations satisfied, which—if popular writers are to be believed—include a big indemnity. But that could only be exacted if some vital interests of Russia were at stake, which Japan could restore to them. Such a thing would be, for instance, the possession of Vladivostock. It would remain to be seen if that place can be taken in shorter time than Port Arthur, though it is never safe to prophesy until you know. The Baltic fleet on the way is, perhaps justly, not expected to be such a difficult job to deal with. You in Hongkong may likely be nearer to these coming events than we are here, for in your neighbourhood no doubt the Japanese will try to tackle them, if the Russians are fools enough to come straight up into the lion's jaw.

A SAIL TO CANTON.

The cruising yacht *La Cigale* returned from Canton on the 5th instant. She left Hongkong on New Year's Eve, with Messrs. E. M. Hazeland (the owner), M. McIver, J. Reidie and E. F. Gibson on board. A pleasant breeze carried them over the water to Shek van, which was reached at about nine o'clock that night, when the yacht was anchored. The journey was resumed at about half-past one in the morning, New Year's Day. There was a fair amount of wind as far as Tiger Island (Blake Light), but then it died away and left them almost at the mercy of the tide. Canton was reached at noon on Monday, the yacht having made an approach by the back reach.

The party visited the native city, and saw the great fire.

La Cigale's prow was pointed homeward on Tuesday morning shortly before eleven o'clock. There being no wind a launch gave them a tow as far as Whampoa. Thence to Hongkong it was done by working the tides—anchoring when they were adverse and letting the boat drift when favourable. Some of the party, while the craft was at a standstill, went in search of snipe and quail in the paddy fields near Amhurst Light. It is said they got a big bag, and that "many other birds fell in the water." Looking much the better for the outing the sportsmen reached Hongkong early yesterday morning.

WIND MOTORS FOR CHINA.

In his report for the year 1903, H.M. Consul at ⁴ Moy wrote:—

"The usual number of circulars and catalogues have been received with letters of enquiry respecting all sorts of impossible articles of import, for which there is only a very limited or no demand at all here. There never can be any possible demand at this port for wool washing or wool sorting machinery, and there is little prospect of any great demand for vertical and horizontal engines or other expensive steam machinery. In one direction, however, that of wind motors, there might possibly be a chance. Water wheels are fairly common in China, but windmills are practically unknown, though China is by no means a windless country such as Burmah is in many parts. Simple wind motors costing little and easy to erect could well be used for many purposes where cheap power is required, especially for pumping and general irrigation work, and once introduced their simplicity and comparative cheapness would appeal to the native mind, and probably pave the way for the introduction of other machinery."

SHOCKING TRAGEDY ON THE "ADAMASTOR."

A MIDSHIPMAN SHOOTS HIMSELF.

Senhor Figueiredo, a midshipman of the Portuguese cruiser *Adamastor*, shot himself on the 6th instant. He has been described as a very good young man of twenty years, very well liked by all on board his ship; he appeared to be in the best of spirits. At about eleven o'clock in the morning a revolver report was heard coming from his cabin. On the door being opened he was found dead, a bullet having passed through his temple. No one really knows whether it was a case of suicide or an accident, but his friends think the latter.

THE FUNERAL.

The funeral, a very impressive ceremony, took place on Jan. 6 h. It was rendered unique though none the less solemn by the fact that no priest officiated. The clergy, in conformity with the custom of the Church of Rome, refused to officiate on account of there being doubt as to whether or not deceased had been guilty of suicide.

The Consul-General for Portugal obtained permission from the Colonial Secretary to land a firing party to fire the volleys.

The funeral party, consisting of officers and thirty sailors from each of the Portuguese warships in port—the battleship *Vasco da Gama*, the cruiser *Adamastor*, and the gun-boat *Diu*—landed at the wharf opposite Blue Buildings at about one o'clock. The coffin was brought ashore on a cutter towed by the *Adamastor*'s pinnace, escorted by steam launches carrying officers and men. The captain of the *Adamastor* landed in his own cutter. The funeral proceeded to the Happy Valley Roman Catholic Cemetery in the following order:—small party of bluejackets, the coffin on a gun-carriage accompanied by Conselheiro Romano (in full dress uniform—cocked hat, etc.) and the captains of the respective ships, Vice-Consul Leiria and the seconds in command of the *Adamastor* and *Diu*, and finally a large body of bluejackets. The coffin, beautifully carved, was covered with the Portuguese flags and many beautiful wreaths. In spite of the fierce rays of the sun all bared their heads on entering the Cemetery. The coffin was here carried by a number of non-commissioned officers. As it was lowered into the grave a firing party, consisting of thirty men, which remained in the street, sent off three volleys, the order having been given through a bugler. The grave was then filled in and the men dispersed.

MURDER ON THE S.S. "TREMONT."

FILIPINO RUNS AMOK.

On Thursday the 5th instant a Filipino named Pagain ran amok on the American steamer *Tremont*, killing one man and seriously injuring a second.

It appears that some eighty Filipinos—men, women and children—under the charge of a Mr. Pettit, are being returned to the Philippine Islands from the World's Fair at St. Louis. They are all berthed in the steerage, and on the night before mentioned, Pagain ran a knife into another Filipino named Apowen, who was lying in his bunk, killing him almost immediately. A Filipino named Sudong who was attracted by the dying cry of the murdered man, on going in the direction from whence it came, was met by Pagain, who promptly attacked him with his knife.

By this time the tumult became general and Pagain fled. He was last seen running along the deck forward, and it is believed he is in amongst the ship's cargo. The ship is of immense size, and is carrying a cargo of 18,000 tons.

The matter was reported to the Police yesterday morning, and as Inspector Langley was engaged in Court, Chief Detective Inspector Hanson, a Magistrate, and a search party went off. Mr. Hanson decided, with the aid of a number of cargo coolies, to search the various tunnellings and spaces between the cargo in holds one, two, three, and four from the bow to the middle of the ship.

Sudong being in a critical condition, Mr. Hazeland went off to ascertain if it were

necessary to take his depositions. This, however, he deferred, as there is still hope of his recovery.

At seven p.m. on January 6th Pagain was arrested at West Point, after having seriously injured a ricksha coolie. It is surmised that while the search was going on for him on board he managed to reach the shore disguised in Chinese clothes. He landed at Connaught Road West near the French steamers' wharf and immediately charged a stand where several ricksha coolies were stationed. Slashing his knife right and left amongst them, he drove it to the hilt in one unfortunate coolie's shoulder. He then ran it deep into his chest and cut him again on the arm. He was slashing furiously at a Chinese *lukong* who went to assist the coolie when a European appeared on the scene and knocked the knife out of his hand. The *lukong* arrested him and took him to the Central Police Station. The coolie was taken to the Government Civil Hospital in a state of collapse and no hope is held out of his recovery. The *lukong* also sustained some nasty wounds. The coolie has since died.

STEAM LAUNCH "WING LOI" IN COLLISION.

COXSWAIN CHARGED WITH MANSLAUGHTER.

At the Magistracy on the 5th instant Mr. H. H. J. Gompertz held an inquiry touching the death of a Chinese child, Fung Su, and a Chinese adult, Wong Tung Tsui, who met their deaths as the result of a collision between the steam launch *Wing Loi* and a sampan. The coxswain of the launch was indicted on a charge of manslaughter. Mr. Basil Taylor (Assistant Harbour Master) sat on the Bench with the Coroner. The jury empanelled were:—Messrs. A. R. Fullerton (foreman), A. F. Osmund and Thos. Blair. Mr. E. J. Grist (of Messrs. Wilkinson and Grist) represented the owners of the launch. The first witness was Dr. Macfarlane, who, after making post-mortem examinations of the bodies, found the cause of death was due to asphyxia caused by drowning.

Dr. Forster, Assistant Health Officer of the port, said:—I was on duty in the harbour on the afternoon of 28th December last, and noticed that a collision had occurred between a launch and a sampan. On nearing the sampan I was told that two children were imprisoned underneath. By the time we arrived at the sampan I had my clothes off, and jumped into the water. I broke away part of the boat to get underneath. It was cracked in the collision. The children appeared to be wedged underneath by the woodwork. The younger child was tied to the elder's back. Eventually I got the two children on to my launch. On examination I found the younger was dead. The elder I eventually resuscitated. I also attended the first child picked out of the water. I then steamed back to the *Telemachus*, taking my two patients on board and leaving the dead child on the launch. I left the children in charge of the second officer and went on with my work.

[The Coroner reminded the jury, when giving their finding, that they might make some mention of the services of this witness. One child owed its life to the Doctor, and it was usual for the jury to make a recognition which could be sent through the proper channel to the Royal Humane Society.]

Fung Kam Tai, master of the sampan, said:—The collision occurred on the 28th December at about 3 p.m. I was at the stern of my boat when the steam launch *Wing Loi* ran her down. This was just off Jardine's wharf. I had been off to the s.s. *Holstein*. The *Wing Loi* was going in the same direction as I was. I saw her suddenly behind me. She was about three chung away from my boat. I had not time to get out of her way. My boat was under sail and oar. The wind was blowing from north to south. When I saw the launch I let go my helm, my boat turned, and the launch struck her on the starboard side. There was another launch towing a cargo boat on my starboard side. I let go my helm to get out of the way of the launch coming behind. I did not alter my course on account of the launch in tow. When struck I had nine passengers on

board; also my wife, myself and three children. I was steering when the boat was overturned. One of the passengers was drowned. The others were taken on board the *Wing Loi*. My wife scrambled on board the launch. My wife and myself worked the boat. I do not consider my neglect was to blame for the collision.

Walter Cyril Weston, late second officer of the s.s. *Telemachus*, said:—I was on the deck of my ship when the collision occurred. I did not see the collision. What attracted my attention was Dr. Forster stripping and getting into the water. Accompanied by another officer I went across in the ship's sampan. I saw the Doctor dive under the sampan to get the youngsters out. There was considerable risk to himself. I consider it was entirely due to his assistance that the children were saved. We had the children on the launch before the sampan was righted.

DOCTOR'S BRAVERY RECOGNISED.

COXSWAIN TO BE COMMITTED TO THE S. SESSIONS.

At the Magistracy on the 6th instant Mr. H. H. J. Gompertz continued the inquiry touching the death of a Chinese child, Fung Su, and a Chinese adult, Wong Tung Tsui, who met their deaths as the result of a collision between the steam launch *Wing Loi* and a sampan. The coxswain of the launch was indicted on a charge of manslaughter. Mr. Basil Taylor (Assistant Harbour Master) sat on the Bench with the Coroner. The jury empanelled were:—Messrs. A. R. Fullerton (foreman), A. F. Osmund and Thos. Blair. Inspector Langley conducted the case on behalf of the Police, and Mr. E. J. Grist (of Messrs. Wilkinson and Grist) represented the owners of the launch.

Li Chi, wife of the master of the sampan deposed:—I was on board the sampan when the collision occurred on the 28th ultimo. We were coming from the s.s. *Holstein*. I was rowing at the bow. My husband was steering. We had nine passengers on board; also three children. The launch *Wing Loi* ran up against our sampan from behind. I did not see it before it struck us. As it struck our sampan I fell into the water, and scrambled on board the *Wing Loi*. I do not know whether our sampan altered its course before we were struck.

Wong Tim, a passenger, declared:—I was on board the sampan when we were run down by the *Wing Loi*. I did not see her until she ran into us. There was a steam launch in front of us. She was towing a boat. I identified the body of the fok who was drowned, at the Yaumati Mortuary.

Wong Lai, another passenger, said:—I was in the sampan which was capsized. The sampan was under sail and the wind was blowing from east to west. I do not know whether the sampan altered her course before the collision, and cannot say how it occurred.

Chung Po, a sailor on the *Wing Loi*, stated:—I was on board the *Wing Loi* on the 21st ultimo when the collision occurred. We were following the sampan. She altered her course when we were about 30 feet away. If the sampan had not altered her course we were going to pass her on her port side. When she altered her course our engines were reversed, and we ported the helm with the intention of going a-starboard. We could not, however, pass, and struck her on the stern. If she had kept straight on her course there would have been no accident.

By the Coroner:—When we saw the sampan we were going at ordinary speed.

By Inspector Langley:—When we saw the sampan we blew our whistle twice.

By the Jury:—I saw a launch in tow in front of the sampan. If the sampan had not altered her course she would not have collided with that launch.

The Coroner addressed the jury at length on the evidence. He said the launch was going very much faster than the sampan, and by the rules for the prevention of collisions at sea it was the duty of the overtaking vessel to keep clear of the vessel in front. As a general rule the onus was upon the vessel coming up behind to prove that the collision was caused by the fault of the boat in front. It was for the jury to determine whether, if the sampan had altered her course, she would have got into the way of the launch had the launch kept a proper distance

away. If the jury returned a verdict of culpable negligence against the coxswain of the launch, he would commit the defendant, after hearing what he had to say, to the Sessions. If they brought in a verdict of death by misadventure, the sampan people could, if they chose, seek redress in a civil action.

The jury found the collision causing the death of the two Chinese was due to culpable negligence on the part of the coxswain of the *Wing Loi*. They also wished to mention Dr. Forster's gallant behaviour in saving the lives of the children.

The Coroner said he would forward the recommendation, together with the evidence of Mr. Weston, second officer of the *Telemachus*, who saw the whole matter, to the Government.

THE COXSWAIN'S CASE.

In the afternoon Mr. Gompertz heard the case of Wong Fung Tsung, coxswain of the steam launch *Wing Loi*, who was charged as follows:—“That you, by your culpable negligence, did bring about and compass the deaths of Fung Su, a child, and Wong Tung Tsui, a Chinese adult.”

His Worship informed the accused that in consequence of the finding of the jury he would commit him for trial at the Criminal Sessions. He was then cautioned in the usual way and asked if he wished to make any statement.

Accused said he would reserve his statement until he was tried, but as he wished to call witnesses the case was adjourned.

HARBOUR COLLISION INQUIRY.

The adjourned inquiry into the cause of death of a Chinese boy who was drowned in the harbour as result of a collision between a pinnace of H.M.S. *Glory* and a sampan was continued before Mr. H. H. J. Gompertz at the Magistracy on the 4th instant. Mr. Basil Taylor, assistant harbour-master, sat on the bench with the Coroner. After hearing the evidence of further witnesses the Coroner, addressing the jury, said it seemed quite clear the sampan was not to blame for the collision. From the evidence of a Naval officer it appeared that the same could have been averted had the coxswain of the launch done the right thing. The coxswain in evidence, said he thought he had done so in steering the launch as he did. If he made a mistake in not doing the proper thing, nothing could be found culpable in his conduct. The jury wanted to make it quite clear that death was either the result of an accident, or, if they found the coxswain guilty of negligence, such finding was equivalent to a verdict of manslaughter. On the evidence they were hardly justified in coming to such a conclusion.

After brief deliberation the jury returned a verdict of death by misadventure.

COREA'S FOREIGN ADVISER.

TERMS OF CONTRACT.

Mr. Stevens, whom the Corean Government arranged to engage as adviser for foreign affairs, at the instance of the Japanese Government, was to leave Tokyo during December for Corea.

The conditions of his engagement, which were submitted to the Corean Cabinet meeting held on the 7th December and approved, are as follows:—

The Corean Foreign Minister is to engage Mr. Stevens as diplomatic adviser, and the American citizen is to discharge the necessary duties; Mr. Stevens is to faithfully consider and submit views on all questions arising between Corea and the Powers, or foreign individuals; the Corean Foreign Minister is to place all diplomatic documents and correspondence at the disposal of Mr. Stevens, and to deal with all diplomatic affairs in accordance with his advice; Mr. Stevens to have the privilege of attending all Cabinet meetings held to consider diplomatic questions, and of submitting his views to the Cabinet, and of personally addressing the Throne on diplomatic questions; Mr. Stevens to be granted a salary of Yen 1,000 per month; the contract to remain in force indefinitely, unless otherwise arranged between the parties concerned with the consent of the Japanese Representative; the contract to become null and void when the Corean

Government has discharged the adviser at the instance of the Japanese Government; and the contract to be amended or modified by arrangement with the consent of the Japanese Minister at Seoul.—*Nagasaki Press*.

THE CONDEMNED YOUTHS.

The committee of the Tang Wa Hospital, as “the most influential body of Chinese in Hongkong,” have been asked to use their influence to have the youngest prisoner—“a mere boy of seventeen,” reprieved.

The petitioner, a European, thinks it would be a very gracious act on the part of the Chinese community, an opinion which most people will endorse. It is almost too much to expect of them.

The chief argument adduced is that there were only two lives lost, so two hangings should suffice; a reason which, it is scarcely necessary to point out, could not be considered in law. Where three men kill one it would seem wrong to let two go free. In the present case, it was not due to the prisoners that the deaths were limited to two. The boy who swam to the steamer had a narrow escape. It must not be supposed that the authorities are any the less sorry or humane than the mercy inclined petitioner. Unfortunately, some duties, however disagreeable, have to be faced.

PROPOSED TAX ON MANDARINS.

The *Peking Times* published the following translation of a petition by Wang Chia-chi, probationary commissary of records of Chekiang Prefecture, to T'ieh Liang, Imperial Commissioner for raising funds, proposing the adoption of a “Mandarin-tax.”

I beg most respectfully to lay before you my humble proposal for acceptance, having heard, that “If the ruler of a country is rich, his people will not be the only ones in destitution and if the people are poor, their ruler cannot alone be wealthy.” Our country is now in an indigent position; foreign loans have been amassed and the people are involved in distress. It is indeed a critical time for both the ruler and the people, who are in a miserable condition. Very often, faithful advice cannot be given to high authorities for fear of giving offence. I am well aware that my unworthy words will be of no service, but cannot help speaking frankly to you about this matter. You are here in the South with the order to raise funds for drilling troops in Peking. The Southern provinces are generally known as fertile and rich, but in reality they are wealthy only in appearance, and nine out of ten houses are empty for a long time since. This is due to the raising of funds for the central government, the re-organization of the Northern provinces and the payment of foreign loans and indemnities, after the Boxer trouble. All the Provincial Treasuries which are exhausted can hardly answer any call. Every item of government expenditure is obtained from the people.

The scheme of increasing the land tax proposed by Sir Robert Hart, the Inspector-General, is against public opinion and full of vices which will cause mischief to the people and disaster to the Empire. It must not be adopted in any case. The tariff of likin is 5 per cent., but owing to its passing through the many hands of collectors amounts to fully 30 per cent. The miserable circumstances of the merchants are thus critical. Any increase in likin is not to be thought of. Houses have been already taxed. It would be no harm to increase the tax on tobacco, wine, native opium both raw and boiled, several times more than they are now: still that would not amount to much. The sum you need is very large. In my humble opinion there are a few advisable plans for raising funds. In China both the throne and the people suffer from financial stress, but never the high officials. For the past 300 years the dynasty has had thousands of officials, and the ministers in the court have lived on the fat of the land at the expense of the people. They have every luxury that can be enjoyed, yet they complain. They are the most ungrateful people in the world. These are the people from whom funds should be raised! In the interests of the Throne, the army and the people, I beg you will make plans for this to be done, disregarding any individual

ality and showing neither fear nor favour. A memorial should be addressed to the Throne requesting the Imperial sanction to the enforcement of a mandarin tax. If Jung Lu's and Li Hung-chang's families could be made to contribute a million taels each as an example, all the other provincial officials might be made to contribute in proportion to the value of their posts. At least 40 per cent. of their incomes should be contributed to the Government. In this way millions of taels could be raised without difficulty. At first it would be a great surprise to the public generally, but the people will be pleased. If the people are pressed much more they will rebel, but pressure on the officials is no hardship and no fear of their rebellion need be entertained. The way in which the Japanese have come forward to float their loans has impressed the whole world.

Another scheme which I beg to lay before you is to remit only half of the money so raised to Peking, and distribute the remainder among the commercial bureaux in the provinces. An order should be issued encouraging men of ability to invent and improve upon various implements and tools which should be on view and be rewarded with the sole rights of their inventions and a grant from the official contributions as a working capital. This capital can be repaid in instalments together with a royalty which must be decided by the merchant's own conscientiousness in the matter. In this way the spirit of the people may be roused, and the resources of the country developed while millions of taels should be available for the government.

The drilling of troops in foreign countries is largely to protect trade, and commercial prosperity is at once the strength of the people and the support of the army. Foreign nations never oppress and exhaust the vitality of the people or drain their livelihood in order to raise troops. But for this purpose the real wealth of the country should be tapped. If sufficient troops are drilled, and every man becomes in some degree a soldier, we need no longer fear any invasions, but will certainly attain victory. I trust my humble suggestions may meet with your approval.

The memorial has been sent up to Peking by Tieh Liang and the memorialist has already been summoned to an audience, his suggestions having won approval.

FIRE AT KOWLOON.

FOUR HOUSES IN ELGIN ROAD GUTTED.

Fire broke out at No. 48, Elgin Road, Kowloon, on the morning of the 3rd instant. The flames took a firm hold on the building and spread to the next house, No. 49. Both Nos. 48 and 49 were occupied by Lee Hing and Co., furniture dealers. The Kowloon members of the Fire Brigade arrived at about four o'clock, but, no water being available, were helpless for some time. The Yaumati engine was next on the scene. The locality of the burning houses, however, being so far from the sea, the force of water was quite insufficient for the purpose required. The jets, in fact, would reach no higher than the second storey. Tongues of fire protruding from the back of the building set a matshed in the rear alight. This made a great blaze, and, in turn, passed the fire on to houses Nos. 45 and 46 (Mr. Ruttonjee's bakery and the barber's shop opposite the Occidental Hotel). The strangest thing about the whole affair was that House No. 47 (the Dairy Farm Co.'s branch, and Weismann's Bakery branch) escaped, or nearly so, for the upper storey alone suffered. The fact that two houses were burnt down on either side this one has caused the Dairy Farm Co., Ltd. to notify, by express, their customers in Kowloon that the fire in Elgin Road, having in no way affected their premises, deliveries of their supplies will go on as usual. The Occidental Hotel had a very narrow escape, the great width of the road alone saving it. At about a quarter to six, the fire then having practically burnt itself out, the Brigade had mostly to confine their energies to preventing it spreading. Engines arrived from the Kowloon Godowns and the Torpedo Depot. About that time a good force of water was obtained by the fire float pumping into a tank from which an engine took its supply.

Damage to No. 48 is estimated at \$14,000, covered by insurance as follows:—\$9,000 in the London and Lancashire; \$5,000 in another company. Damage to the second and third floors of No. 49 is estimated at \$7,000, but no insurance had been effected. The barber's shop and other premises were partly insured.

EXTRA-TERRITORIALITY.

We were very glad to see the following letter in the N.C. *Daily News*:

SIR,—The persistent demand that is being made by the Chinese officials and gentry of this place for the surrender of the Russian sailors implicated in the recent homicide on the Bund is full of interest to all foreign residents in China and should be watched very carefully, as it is a covert attack on the one principle that makes life possible for foreigners in China, namely, that of extra-territoriality. Unfortunately, the treaty between Russia and China affords a slight pretext for this demand, and in this respect it differs from that signed between China and the other countries.

Probably, without exception, the latter provide that all offences committed by their nationals in China shall be tried by a tribunal of that nation to which the national belongs. In most instances, the trial takes place at the nearest Consular Court where the offence is committed, and in some, as in the case of Portugal and Japan, the offenders guilty of the more serious offences are sent either to Macao or Japan. The Russian treaty, however, provides that in offences of a certain grade, a preliminary hearing shall be held before a Mixed Tribunal consisting of Russians and Chinese, and that if the presumption of guilt is such that the prisoner is committed for trial he is then sent to Russia for trial by his Home Court. It is this latter provision which gives the only colour of right to the contention of the Chinese in the present instance, as this hearing was not held with a Chinese Assessor present. Even this, however, does not justify their demand—if the translations appearing in the Press are correctly made—that the trial shall take place before a Mixed Tribunal and that the person of the prisoner shall be handed over to the Chinese.

No principle should be more strenuously insisted upon than that no foreigner—absolutely irrespective of his offence—shall be brought before a Chinese tribunal, nor should they to any degree be permitted to interfere in matters of this kind.

The present situation is a difficult one owing to the apparent conflict of the international procedure in matters such as the interning of the *Askold*, and the extraordinary conditions brought about by the presence of the extra-territorial jurisdiction of the foreign Powers in China. These last rest on treaty, and as such are supreme law, and under these treaties China is especially prohibited from having jurisdiction over any offence of this character.

Both existing treaties and considerations of the highest expediency demand that these disabilities of extra-territoriality be imposed upon China without the slightest relaxation.

If, as seems to be the case, from the article in your issue of this morning, there are covert threats of disorder or rioting, this should not be allowed to cloud the main issue that no national of a foreign country can be made subject to Chinese jurisdiction. The International Law which the Chinese urge in the present instance is only applicable to them in so far as it does not interfere with existing treaties. I am, etc.,

"CAUTION."

30th December.

[Our contemporary added this comment: "The contention of the Chinese is, and it is not an entirely ill-founded contention, that these Russians are prisoners of the Chinese Government by their own act, and have thus forfeited for the time their extra-territorial rights."—If that is what internment implies, it becomes a duty to oppose the interment of any foreign soldiers or sailors in Chinese ports again. The very phrase "prisoners of the Chinese," when applied to foreigners, sounds objectionable.]

The N.C. *Daily News* says it is reported in Shanghai mandarin circles that as a result of the appeal of the Shanghai Taotai and Ningpo

gentry and notables here, the Waiwupu has sent down instructions to the former to make a strong demand on the Russian Consul-General for the persons of the two Russian sailors of the cruiser *Askold* guilty of the murder of Chou Seng-yu on the 15th ultimo. The Shanghai Taotai is also instructed to state that, if the Russian Consul-General still continues to shield the guilty sailors and refuse to hand them over for trial according to international law, the Chinese authorities must take such action to be a deliberate attempt at violating Chinese neutrality on the part of the Russians, in which case China cannot undertake the responsibility of protecting in future Russians fleeing for safety into Chinese jurisdiction. Furthermore, that if at any time anything should happen to the Russian ships now interned in Shanghai the burden of responsibility must rest on the Russians themselves, and not on the Chinese authorities. A similarly strongly worded despatch, it is stated, has also been handed to the Russian Minister in Peking by the Waiwupu.

THE RECENT EMEUTE AT HANKOW.

With reference to the recent trouble (which nearly rose to the importance of a popular *emeute*) between a large number of Chinese hongs, dealing in skins, hides and other export products, in Hankow, and the two German firms of Arnhold, Karberg, and Co., and Carlowitz and Co., wherein the native hongs demand over Tls. 130,000 from the German firms for goods supplied them through their respective compradores, one of whom had committed suicide, while the other had absconded, as already reported, we now learn from Hankow that it is reported—with what amount of truth we are unable to say—that the German firms in question have consented to pay Tls. 100,000 on the understanding that bygones be bygones and trade, so far interrupted, is allowed to continue in its normal course. We also understand that in reply to a petition, conjointly signed by over one hundred Chinese hongs, setting forth their side of the case, Viceroy Chang Chih-tung wrote in his Rescript that "since in all cases where foreigners have been plaintiffs the Chinese authorities invariably do their best to force the Chinese debtors to pay what they owe to the foreign plaintiffs, so he (the Viceroy) sincerely hoped the Consuls of all foreign firms would also do their best to see justice dealt out with impartiality and Chinese creditors get their dues, thereby wisely directing the channels of trade to flow smoothly, without check or hindrance." His Excellency also asks in his Rescript, if foreign firms be allowed to decline to be bound by their compradores' contracts with Chinese hongs, what is to be done in the future when Chinese are debtors of foreigners? Finally, the Hankow Customs Taotai, Shang, is instructed to convey his Excellency's sentiments as quoted above to the German Consul at Hankow, with the earnest hope that the matter under review be impartially and justly settled without delay.—N.C. *Daily News*.

SHIPPING FATALITY NEAR HONGKONG.

A RESCUE BY THE S.S. "DOMENICO."

Capt. J. E. Watson, of the s.s. *Domenico*, reports that at 8.15 p.m. on the 29th December, when about three miles S.S.E. of Song-Yiu Point, he picked up six of the crew of the junk *Sun Hung Shing*, which was run down by a steamer while voyaging from Sa Pa (Cheknam) to Yeong Kong (the Hongkong agents of the vessel are the Wan Yuen). It was quite dark at the time, and the men attracted Capt. Watson's attention by their cries for help. They were, with the exception of one, in the water clinging to pieces of bamboo and other wreckage—they had been half an hour in the water, and some of them were very nearly exhausted. The junk had been a three masted craft, with a crew of eight all told, but although Capt. Watson cruised around for an hour he could not find the missing two. When the cries were first heard the mate took charge of one boat, and a sailor was told off to cox another. The mate's boat picked up two men, and the other a third. The boats were then hooked on to the falls and hoisted clear of the water. Yells were then heard from the gloom.

ahead of the vessel, and two half-drowned men were hauled on board over the bow. Still further shouts of "Save life" were audible, and it was discovered that the fore part of the junk—the junk had been cut in two—was floating, a mast being still standing thereon. The mate again put out in a boat and picked up a man from this, at the same time making a lamp fast to the mast on the derelict to warn other vessels. The shipwrecked men were restored with considerable difficulty, artificial respiration being carried out, and a liberal use of stimulants. Three of the men were very old, one having been at sea for fifty years.

It is rumoured that the s.s. *Hoi Ching* ran the vessel down.

CENSUS RETURN OF JAPAN.

According to the Census taken on the 31st day of December, 1903, the population of Japan stood at 48,321,195. The men in actual service of the army and navy, and the population of Formosa are not included in these figures. The cities containing a population of over 50,000 are as follows:

Tokyo	1,803,584	Okayama	80,140
Osaka	988,200	Otaru	79,361
Kyoto	379,409	Fukuoka	70,107
Yokohama	324,775	Wakayama	67,908
Nagoya	284,819	Takushima	62,998
Kobe	283,839	Niigata	58,821
Nagasaki	151,727	Kagoshima	58,384
Hiroshima	113,545	Tayama	56,275
Kanazawa	97,548	Sapporo	55,304
Sendai	93,773	Kumamoto	55,277
Hakodate	84,746		

SILK.

The figures of the settlements of silk at Canton from June 1 show the results of the failure of the third crop when compared with previous years.

1904-5. 1903-4. 1902-3.

13,860 bales 19,725 bales 21,500 bales
The falling off since last year is about one-third. The proposal of the French Government to impose a heavy duty on all Asiatic silk after January, 1905, will threaten the prosperity of the silk industry of China.

[A report just made by the Customs Duties Committee of the Chamber of Deputies recommends the imposition of a duty of 7f. 50c. (6s.) per kilogramme on pure silk stuffs of European origin, as well as Japanese pongees, and a duty of 9f. (7s. 2d.) on all silk stuffs from the Far East.]

HONGKONG VOLUNTEER RESERVES.

The rules of the Hongkong Volunteer Reserve Association have been published. The primary object of the Association, which is to consist of any number of British subjects, is the promotion of rifle shooting. The minimum age limit for members shall be 35 (except special permission be obtained from His Excellency the Governor in exceptional cases). The annual subscription shall be \$5, but members joining the association after 1st September in any year shall pay only half subscription. The members undertake not to quit the association without leave within one year of joining it, and in the event of a proclamation being issued under section 12 (i) of the Volunteer Ordinance, 1893, to enrol themselves under such ordinance as the Hongkong Volunteer Reserve Company. Upon enrolment officers of the company will be selected and commissioned by the Governor from among the members. Every member of the association shall if possible attend at a range at least once in every month for the purpose of shooting. The association shall hold an annual meeting for prize shooting. The general management of the association shall be entrusted to a committee, elected by the members, consisting of a chairman, secretary, and eight other members.

Mr. W. H. Trenchard Davis is the Hon. Secretary.

HONGKONG'S REVENUE.

An account of Hongkong's revenue and expenditure from the 1st January to the 31st October, 1904, has been published. The year was started with a balance in hand of \$215,732.25, against which stood payments totalling \$37,901.42. On the 31st October there was a deficit balance overdrawn of \$663,531.13. The figures are as follows:—

RECEIPTS.	
Balance 1st January 1904	\$ 215,732.25
Light dues	60,454.52
Licences and Internal Revenue not otherwise specified	3,710,539.21
Fees of Court or Office, payments for specific purposes, and Reimbursements in Aid	339,209.95
Post Office	348,391.05
Rent of Government property, Land and Houses	499,602.29
Interest	7,811.67
Miscellaneous receipts	55,583.18
Water account	45,140.47
Land sales	313,108.59
Deposits available	400,000.00
Deposits available, subsidiary coin	1,860,080.00
Deposits not available	513,932.37
Crown agents' account	3,910,000.00
Crown agents' advance	1,262,062.13
Advance account	230,323.61
Family remittances	18,569.10
Subsidiary coins	1,700,080.00
Money order account	136,773.90
Suspense house service	25,108.38
Exchange	4,279.59
Total	\$ 15,657,782.26
Balance overdrawn, 31st October, 1904	663,531.23
Total	16,321,313.49

PAYMENTS.

Balance 1st January, 1904	\$ 37,901.42
Charge on acc. Public Dbt.	172,071.91
Pensions	179,491.53
Governor	59,715.58
Colonial Secretary's Department and Legislature	53,319.24
Audit Department	10,215.78
Treasury	40,288.43
Post Office	252,341.27
Registrar-General's Department	26,059.52
Harbour Master's Department	90,056.88
Lighthouses	26,806.79
Observatory	17,890.81
Botanical and Afforestation Dept.	42,582.79
Judicial and Legal Departments	115,570.47
Land Court, New Territory	17,455.68
Ecclesiastical	2,700.00
Education	133,503.80
Medical Departments	178,269.76
Magistracy	30,379.14
Police	550,824.57
Sanitary Department	319,028.62
Charitable allowances	4,027.66
Transport	12,918.12
Miscellaneous services	127,286.69
Military expenditure	1,096,545.46
Public Works Department	178,371.99
Public Works, recurrent	392,400.90
Public Works, extraordinary	1,091,229.44
Deposits available	400,000.00
Deposits available, subsidiary coin	1,700,080.00
Deposits not available	372,055.41
Crown agents' account	3,740,000.00
Crown agents' advance	1,000,782.61
Advance account	312,411.71
Family remittances	30,617.53
Subsidiary coins	3,253,548.49
Money order account	138,579.51
Suspense account
Transport	24,123.99
Total	\$ 16,321,313.49

The statement of assets and liabilities on 31st October was as follows:—

ASSETS.	
Advances, &c.	\$ 130,180.01
Total assets	\$ 130,180.01
Balance	1,302,882.16
Total	\$ 1,433,062.17

LIABILITIES.

Deposits not available	\$ 584,863.34
Crown agents' drafts	170,000.00
Money order remittances	14,667.90
Balance overdrawn, Bank	616,365.41
Balance overdrawn, Crown agents	47,165.82
Total	\$ 1,433,062.47
Subsidiary coins in transit	Nil
Estimate of silver at mint	\$ 1,690,259.00
Total	\$ 1,690,259.00

TRADE IN THE SOUTH.

Wang Ching-mu, secretary of the Board of Commerce was recently sent on a special mission to inquire into trade in the South. He had his farewell audience on the 20th and left Peking on the 24th of the 3rd Moon. His visit extended from Shanghai to all the Yangtze ports, and he has now submitted a report on the commercial conditions. In his opinion Shanghai and Hankow are the principal ports for Yangtze trade. The prosperity of a market is displayed at Shanghai, the centre of navigation, where the merchants of all nations are gathered. There are nine Chinese cotton yarn factories, twenty-nine silk spinning factories, and many other factories for the production of paper, towels, candles, soaps, matches, foreign embroidery, etc. A general commercial guild and literary society have been opened there with the sanction of the Board of Commerce.

Hankow is situated on the upper part of the Yangtze river and is a centre for all the native goods poured in from Shansi, Honan, Szechuan and Hunan. The principal exports are tea and grain, next to which are wood, oil, medicines, cowhides, bristles and hemp. The value of the exports last year was upwards of forty millions of taels, ten million taels in excess of the value of the imports. There are only two factories, one for matches and the other for glass. Being a railway junction and a central market for native goods, the official predicts that the trade of Hankow will outstrip that of Shanghai in the future. In his report he mentions the principal products and manufactures of all the ports he visited. He speaks well of the viceroys and governors for the advances they have made in introducing these enterprises, and in giving advice to merchants on the improvement of native products, he emphasises the value of imitation of foreign goods and the establishment of companies with Chinese capital. He proposes that the tea and silk merchants should combine and send their goods for sale to foreign countries themselves. The rapid extension of commercial guilds is regarded as a preliminary means to this end. Owing to lack of commercial knowledge the Chinese are always beaten by foreign merchants. He concluded his report with a request to the Throne to order the provincial authorities to establish commercial schools. The commissioner is to go to Foochow and Canton when he has finished his examination of the railway and mining accounts at Shanghai in conjunction with Sheng Hsuan-huai and Yang Shih-chi.—*Official Gazette*.

A LEADER OF CHINESE BRIGANDS.

APPLICATION FOR EXTRADITION.

At the Police Court on December 3rd, before Mr. F. A. Hazeland, Chief Detective Inspector Hanson applied, on behalf of the Chinese Government, for the extradition of Ko Ah Ying, who is alleged to have committed the crime of armed robbery within the jurisdiction of China. Mr. Hanson stated that on the 28th November the prisoner was given in charge by Indian constable No. 523. The people who gave him into custody were from Kwong Ning. Witnesses from this city have arrived here since the arrest and will give evidence to the effect that on the 28th September last a large number of armed men invested the district city of Kwong Ning. Three of these witnesses belong to a pawnshop outside the city gates, which was broken into. The robbers stole a considerable amount of money and goods. As some of the witnesses know the prisoner, he was not identified in the orthodox way in the gaol. The pawnshop was set fire to when there were about 50 robbers inside, who were armed with knives, muskets, etc. When the alarm was given they all ran out, and the shop was burnt down.

Leung Sun Tong, the first witness, said:—I am master of the Yeung Ching pawnshop at Kwong Ning City, in the province of Kwang Tung. On the 28th September an attack was made upon the city by a band of robbers. I heard the report of firearms, and in consequence closed the doors of the shop. Five of my folks took fright and ran away. My partner, myself and a watchman remained in the shop. At 12 noon that day the pawnshop was attacked. A

rumbling noise was heard, and also the report of firearms. I was on the ground floor. Our front door was broken in and I ran up to the first floor. Fifty or sixty armed men then rushed in, some carrying firearms and some swords. The prisoner was amongst them. He held a revolver in his hand. He caught hold of me, and asked where my money was. I said, "In the safe." The defendant demanded the key, at the same time striking me over the shoulders with a revolver. I gave him the key. He took 4,500 taels from the safe. He also took from my wrist a jadestone bangle. The other robbers helped themselves to goods in the shop and then set fire to it. The shop was burnt down. I then went to my family house, which is some distance from the city, and did not return for some days because the robbers had besieged the city, and were plundering the outside villages. It was not till the arrival of the Government troops that the robbers could be driven away. Besides the money I lost, clothing to the value of 28,000 taels was either looted or burnt. I also lost 3,600 taels' worth of jewellery. I reported the matter to the district Magistrate on the 4th October. I am quite sure defendant is the man who held me up. The Kwong Ning City is five days' journey from Canton.

Kwong Ying Ting, a partner of the last witness in the pawnshop, corroborated the evidence of Leung Sun Tong. Other witnesses identified the prisoner, and His Worship remanded the case until to-day.

REVIEWS.

Buddhism. An illustrated quarterly review. Rangoon, Burma: International Buddhist Society. \$0.75c.

THE fourth number of this new publication has a timely article, and an excellent frontispiece portrait of Sir Edwin Arnold, who is described as "one beloved to all Buddhists." He was the first honorary member of the society. "For Arnold was a Buddhist, not alone in fact of life, but also in his own eyes and words. . . . it was always as 'we Buddhists' that he wrote to us, and all his life was but a living example of his creed." So tells us the editor, and if we are tempted sometimes to think that he was, like many more, more of a poet than a Buddhist, we need not say so. Other articles in this very presentable review include an authoritative definition of the Philosophy of Buddhism by Dr. Paul Carus; an equally authoritative account of the founding of Lbassa, by Sarat Chandra Das, the enterprising babu who was one of the few foreigners who actually penetrated that mysterious city prior to its recent invasion by our troops; and a thoughtful and impeccable essay on the aim of religion, by Mr. M'Kechnie of Rangoon, the superintendent of the society. In the editorial notes, there is a very proper protest against the description of the Russo-Japan se war as a war between Buddhism and Christianity, "for Buddhist and Christian alike are breaking the clear precepts of their respective faiths" by fighting at all.

Hana, a Daughter of Japan. By GENSAI MURAI. Tokyo: The Hoshi Shimbun. 1904. THE popular Japanese novelist has written this tale specially to help foreigners to a right understanding of the attitude of the Japanese with regard to the war with Russia. It will achieve its object; but it will fail to make them understand the charm of Gensai's work, which has a literary quality in the original which cannot be found in translation. The famous author knows English well, and writes it straightforwardly, but it is not to be expected that a man, however gifted, can achieve that felicity of expression in an alien tongue that, in his own, has made him the Dickens of Japan. In this tale, there is a good deal of talk about trifles which mean much in Nippon, but which would arouse no comment among foreigners. The American tourist in this book is therefore an impossible character to our minds, and his talk and actions alike improbable. With the Japanese characters it is otherwise, and most foreigners outside, to whom the book is addressed, will be quite convinced by the author's sympathetic drawing. The book is got up in the Japanese style, with their awkward but pretty binding, and several

artistic cases. The illustrations are excellent, and charming, and the book would be esteemed greatly by people at home as a unique gift.

The Russo-Japan War. By THOMAS COWEN. London: Edward Arnold. Fifteen shillings. MR. COWEN and Mr. Arnold enjoy the distinction of having got out the first book about the war. It is a good book too, as those who have had the pleasure of knowing Mr. Cowen and his work would expect. He has had experience as war correspondent in at least two campaigns, and is a keen, shrewd observer of men and affairs. His neat, often witty, style of expressing himself is apparent all through this handsome book, which is embellished with a lot of excellent photographs and sketches. Mr. Cowen describes the circumstances leading up to the war, giving the point of view of both sides, tells of the opening stages of the fight, with their astonishing developments, and in the end, brings us up to the battle of Liaoyang. During the course of his graphic narrative, he gives some interesting pictures of the Coreans, among whom his journalistic work has lately kept him. Mr. Cowen tells of a duel at Seoul between M. Pavloff and one of his staff, Count von Raben, which was new to us, although it was an open secret that at the crucial moment M. Pavloff's mind was more occupied with domestic than with State affairs.

HONGKONG.

Messrs. W. H. Woolley, J. Reidie and George Coysh have been elected associate members of the Royal Sanitary Institute.

Sanitary Inspector L. E. Brett has been appointed Senior Inspector in charge of the Eastern District. Senior Inspector Lyons has been transferred from thence to Kowloon.

The appointment of Messrs. Robert Oliphant Hutchison and David William Trotman as cadets in the Hongkong Civil Service has been approved.

The name of Mr. S. J. Powell has been added to the list of authorised architects at Hongkong.

Capt. Owen Ordish has been permitted to resign his commission in the Hongkong Volunteer Corps as he is leaving the Colony.

At the Police Court on January 4th before Mr. F. A. Hazeland, Sergeants Cashman, Brazil, Brown, Eurner, Davitt and Linnahan and P.C. Mackenzie, returned from leave, were sworn in again as members of the Hongkong Police Force. H. Jones was also sworn in as a police constable.

Shortly after two o'clock on December 30th a fire broke out in a shop at No. 16, Wing Kut Street. The brigade was quickly on the scene, but the fire had such a hold that by the time it was got under, practically nothing was saved. The building and goods were insured to the amount of \$1,600.

A Chinese foreman in the employ of the contracting firm of Sang Lee, while cycling on the Des Vœux Road came into collision with a tramcar on January 5th when trying to avoid colliding with a jinrikisha. He bicycle, which was a new one, was badly damaged and its rider was apparently seriously injured. Several of his teeth were broken, and he was picked up unconscious and taken to the Medical Hall. Some European who had witnessed the occurrence obtained an ambulance to remove him to hospital, but the injured man's friends preferred to take him to his own home for treatment.

Early on December 30th Lieutenant Commander E. F. Jellicoe, of the torpedo boat destroyer *Whiting*, was found lying in his cabin with a bullet wound in the head. A weapon was lying beside him, one of the chambers of which was discharged, and all indications point to a case of suicide. The body was removed to the Naval Mortuary, and an inquiry was held at three o'clock in the afternoon on board H.M.S. *Thetis*. The enquiry was, as usual, held in camera. Lieut.-Commander E. F. Jellicoe (of the destroyer *Whiting*) was buried at the Happy Valley Protestant cemetery with Naval honours on December 31st. The ceremony was performed by the Chaplain of H.M.S. *Ocean*; the band of the *Ocean* was present; six lieutenants acted as pall bearers.

FAR EASTERN ITEMS.

A Shanghai hotel published a poetical menu for its New Year Eve dinner. They made "beaten" rhyme with "Ice-cream Neapolitaine," "choice" with "a la Nicoise," and "Marechale" with "Pail." They somehow missed the opportunity to make "hors d'oeuvre" rhyme with "improver."

Work on the construction of the Japanese military railway from Seoul to Wiju (costing Y. 16,000,000) is progressing satisfactorily. The Seoul-Pingyang section is about complete, and the extension to Anju is expected to be finished this month. The line beyond Anju will take several months more to complete, and the authorities have now arranged to construct a temporary railway on this section for utilization by the Imperial Army until the normal line is laid down. The work on the branch line between Pingyang and Chinnampo has been taken in hand.

Mr. Wong Kai Kah, Chinese Vice Commissioner to the World's Fair at St. Louis, recently delivered an address to the United Hebrew Congregation at Indianapolis on "The Religions of China." He made a few remarks on the Jewish colony in the Yangtse Kiang Valley. This colony, he said, had existed since two hundred years before the Christian era, and to this day they had never heard of Jesus. They had a synagogue in which they attended worship, extracted the sinews from flesh before eating it, erected tablets to Moses and Abraham, and were called by some "Blue-capped Mohammedans," because of their blue headdress. Otherwise they were but little different from other Chinese citizens, held high offices in the land at times, and because of Chinese tolerant principles had never been persecuted or oppressed.—*Jewish Chronicle*.

TRADE ITEMS.

The N.C. *Daily News* is informed that the C.N.S. *Whampoa* has been sold. It hints that the Japanese Government was the purchaser.

The November exports from Nagasaki were valued at Yen 469,773, and the imports at Yen 594,248. The value of the imports exceeded that of the exports by Yen 124,475.

A book-keeper who was recently dismissed by the Osaka Cotton Spinning Company, by whom he had been employed many years, has been arrested on charge of misappropriating about 500,000 yen belonging to the Company.

The N.C. *Daily News* was informed on Dec. 31, by Sir Pelham L. Warren, K.C.M.G., H.M. Consul-General, that a telegram had been received from H.M. Minister to the effect that the Chinese Government had consented to suspend the exaction of the one-tael fee on transit passes.

The committee appointed by Governor Arakawa to forward the scheme for a new Nagasaki Steamship Company, assembled at the International Club recently. The *Nagasaki Press* says they estimate that Yen 400,000 will be required to commence operations, and they suggest that, with this sum, two or more second-hand steamers be purchased in order to open a Korean service.

The *Sinwenpao* states that Acting Governor Chou, of Kiangsi province, has sent an official to Shanghai to purchase machinery for the making of cigarettes in order to counteract the immense sales of imported cigarettes that come from Shanghai. It is also stated that the tobacco produced in the Juichin district of Kiangsi province is very good and similar to the flavour of imported tobacco. The new Cigarette Manufactory will be in Nanchang, the capital of Kiangsi province.

Another old Shanghai landmark is soon to disappear, says the N.C. *Daily News*. Messrs. Holliday, Wise & Co's property at the south-east corner of the Foochow and Kiangse Roads has been sold to a Chinese investor, and the old house, in which successive Hollidays have held sway and exercised unbounded hospitality for so many years, is to be pulled down and replaced by a modern pile of offices, in which the firm will still carry on their business. The property comprises, according to the Land Assessment schedule, 6.621 mow, and the price paid is something over Tls. 30,000 per mow, the assessed value being Tls. 20,000 per mow.

COMMERCIAL.

SILK.

Messrs. A. R. Burkill & Sons's Silk Circular date Shanghai, 24th December. States:—The home markets are firm. Gold Killing is quoted in London at 113 and in Lyons at Fcs. 34.00. Raw Silk.—There is again no business to report. Tussah. In Taysaams we have heard of only one transaction of 100 bales. Manderin on the basis of Tls. 565 for M. Hand Filtures.—Nothing doing. Steam Filature.—Have been in fair demand for America at rate given below. Yellow silk.—Very little business doing. Waste silk.—The market continues exceedingly quiet.

The Kobe Market Report, published under the direction of the Hiogo and Osaka General Chamber of Commerce, dated 16th December, has the following:—

IMPORTS

Cotton.—American.—The past fortnight has seen a heavy fall in prices owing to the official crop report of 12,162,000 bales, and business is quite at a standstill. The price at the close of Middling is nominally about Yen 27.50 for spot, and a little lower for January shipment. Indian.—Prices have fallen considerably in sympathy with American quotation, although Indian prices rule comparatively high. The movement in cash is dull, with very little doing owing to shortage of stock. A large business, however, for December shipment had been booked before the fall in prices. Nominal quotations for Akola, Khamguam are Yen 23.50 and Yen 24 respectively, and for Broach and Bengal Yen 26 and Yen 23.50. Chinese.—The present high rate of silver has caused a rise in prices, and no business is reported. Grey Shirtings, Cotton Goods and Fancies.—Market continues in a very dull state. Worsted and Woollens.—Nothing doing of importance. Window Glass.—Higher in absence of any arrivals, and in consequence of the extended strike in Belgium. Metals.—An improvement is noticeable. Chemicals.—Match Chemicals.—Firm at last quotations. Sugar.—Hongkong Refined.—Few inquiries, but prices unchanged. Beet.—Reports that the proposed Consumption Tax, instead of being 50 sen per picul, is to be doubled to Yen 1 all round, has had the effect of marking a very strong market with advanced figures of about Yen 1 per picul. Nothing fresh has transpired regarding the idea of a Government Monopoly in Sugar. Osaka Refined.—An Auction was held on the 7th instant, at which 7,000 bags were sold. The figures realized for Crystals and Whites showed an advance over the previous sale of 19 sen, whilst Browns were 20 sen lower. Rice Market is firm on account of rumours that the Government have decided to impose a duty of 15 per cent. on all arrivals after the 1st of March next, though the Diet has not yet sanctioned this. Kerosene.—Market unchanged, but dull.

EXPORTS

Tea.—Total settlements to date amount to 116,800 piculs, against 128,000 piculs to the same time last season. Tea Shipments: Dec., 11th S.S. Shimous, New York 29,700 lbs. Fish Oil.—About 3,000 cases Herring Oil are reported as bought at quotations. Copper.—No stocks, and some of the principal brands contracted for until the end of next year. It is rumoured that an Osaka Combine which sold 2,500 tons of cash copper coins to China are short of 1,000 tons. Rice.—In view of the proposed duty of 15 per cent. on Import Rice, the market for domestic grain is very firm at somewhat higher quotations. Contracts of Brown Rice for Europe are reported to amount to 4,500 tons. Cotton Yarns.—The decline in price of American and Indian Cotton has greatly affected the Yarn market, although quotations for the latter are comparatively high. This is due to the fact that stocks are small, and mills are fully engaged on forward contracts. The export for the fortnight amounts to 25,232 piculs, as against 18,264 piculs same period in 1903. Vegetable Wax.—About 750 cases have been bought for export at receding prices, but the market appears to be somewhat firm at close. Straw Braid.—Market is brisk. Demand from England and America continues good, prices are firm, and stocks are in good supply. Matting.—Market is firm, with upward tendency. Ready goods are scarce.

RICE.

HONGKONG, 7th Jan.—The downward tendency continues market, being dull.

Saigon, Ordinary \$2.25 to \$2.30
" Round, good quality 3.85 to 3.95
" Long 4.00 to 4.05
Siam, Field mill cleaned, No. 2 2.55 to 2.65
" Garden, " No. 1 2.65 to 2.75
" White 4.10 to 4.15
" Fine Cargo 5.30 to 5.35

Messrs. W. G. Hale & Co.'s Circular, dated Saigon 16th December, states:—The season draws to an end and grain being scarcer our market is quiet with no sales to report during the last fortnight. As for our New Crop latest reports from the interior lead us to believe that the effects of the inundations will not be as disastrous as first anticipated.

We quote for February to March delivery:—
No. 2 White sifted (trié) steam per picul
milled (mixed)
No. 2 White unsifted (ordinaire) Steam
milled (mixed) \$3.55
5% Cargo steam milled (mixed) \$3.20
10% Cargo steam milled " \$3.05
20% Cargo steam milled " \$2.93

SUGAR.

HONGKONG, 7th Jan.—The position of the market is nearly the same as when last reported.

Shekloong, No. 1, White	\$8.65 to \$8.70	per picul.
Do. 2, White	\$7.65 to \$7.70	"
Do. 1, Brown	6.25 to 6.30	"
Do. 2, Brown	5.95 to 6.10	"
Swatow, No. 1, White	8.45 to 8.50	"
Do. 2, White	7.60 to 7.65	"
Do. 1, Brown	6.00 to 6.05	"
Do. 2, Brown	4.80 to 4.85	"
Foochow Sugar Candy	12.80 to 12.90	"
Shekloong "	10.80 to 10.90	"

OPIUM.

9th January.

Quotations are:—Allowance net. to 1 catty.
Malwa New \$1070 to \$1090 per picul.
Malwa Old \$1140 to \$1160 do.
Malwa Older \$1200 to \$1220 do.
Malwa V. Old \$1250 to \$1270 do.
Persian fine quality \$880 to — do.
Persian extra fine \$9 0 to — do.
Patna New \$1120 to — per chest.
Patna Old \$8 — to — do.
Benares New \$1080 to — do.
Benares Old \$8 — to — do.

HONGKONG, 29th December, 1904.—The movements in our various Opium markets have been as follows:—

	Malwa	Patna	Benares	Persian
Stocks as per circular of				
15th December, 1904.	1,307	2,378	1,129	2,037
Dec. 17th Imports per <i>Italia</i>	363	100	—	180
Dec. 20th " " <i>G. Appear</i>	—	155	—	—
Dec. 28th " " <i>Lat Sang</i>	—	720	25	—
	1,070	3,853	1,354	2,223
Less Exports to Shanghai	102	234	76	—
Less Exports to East and West Coast Ports including	141	695	109	170
Local Consumption for the fortnight	—	—	—	—
Estimated Stocks this day	1,427	2,524	1,110	2,053

Bengal.—The demand has been on a small scale. We quote Patna @ \$1145 and Benares at \$1100.

Malwa.—The demand has been on a very small scale and quotations are as follows:—
New \$1,070/1080
2 years old \$1,120/1130
3 " " \$1,150
4/5 " " \$1,200
Oldest \$1,200/1290

Persian.—Prices for good quality are steady @ \$850/900

PIECE GOODS.

Messrs. Noel, Murray & Co.'s Piece Goods Trade Report, dated Shanghai 29th December, states:—As the year opened so is it closing, "in anything but an auspicious manner and with every promise of a continuance of the vicissitudes that will make the past twelve months memorable." Those were the words we used in our Report of 7th Jan. and they have been fully borne out, but in a manner little anticipated at the time they were written. It has been really a most remarkable year, and never before can such violent fluctuations in Cotton be remembered. Starting at 750d., the beginning of the year inside seven pence, and by the 4th February it was quoted 8.96d. From time to time on the price has fluctuated, until last Saturday 4.04d., the lowest quotation for the year, was received. This extraordinary drop appears to have taken every one by surprise; one of the leading firms in New York writing early in Nov. remarked—“should the world again get to work on full time” (with it undoubtedly has), “we think it would take a mighty big crop to give us any permanently lower prices. We see no reason why the “crop should not work itself off gradually without at any time forcing prices below say nine-cents on plantations.” However, if it no us crying over spilt milk, and the majority of holders amongst the Natives have made up their minds to sit tight, keep prices up, and not be tempted by the lower offers from the producing centres.

These are chiefly from New York, the Mills in the States not having covered their sales of Cloth so freely as the Lancashire Manufacturers. The feeling certainly is that enough has been bought for the present, and the wisest course for all concerned is to discourage further buying until the position becomes much less complicated than it appears at present. The interval has been cut into by the Christmas holidays, many of the dealers this year having taken advantage of the quietness prevailing to leave the Port for a visit to their homes. It is not anticipated that anything of importance will be done now before China New Year. With the idea of being able to ship to the Northern distributing centres via Chin-Wang-Tao, the Northern dealers have so far abstained from storing goods in the steamer Godowns. This, however, is likely to be soon reversed, for news has lately come down that the Japanese Authorities have been obliged to reimpose the restrictions on goods sent to Newchwang, owing to the discovery of bales containing war like materials being smuggled in to the Russian lines. This comes as rather a disappointment here, it having been anticipated a fair quantity would be cleared during the winter. Exchange is also doing a great deal to dislocate business, and by steadily rising will cause considerable difficulty in assimilating prices, there being already a margin of fully ten per cent between forward rates obtainable at present and those settled sometime ago. The Manchester market is quiet but steady with very little doing for China, though we understand that here and there small transactions in Fancy makes have gone through at prices that were refused a few weeks ago. Cotton in Liverpool is quoted 4.06d. for Mid-American and 7d. for Egyptian. The lower prices quoted from the State have not tempted buyers, who for the most part are still fretting at the non-arrival of former purchases, the Bills against which are rapidly falling due, while the goods are not yet in sight. We understand that when the s.s. *Algoa* left San Francisco the s.s. *Aztec* was expected to load for this, but the Agents have no advice to that effect. The decline in the raw staple has had a very depressing effect on the Yarn market, and prices for the imported article are again lower. It is rumoured that quite a large business has been done in Indian Spinnings at such low rates sellers will not give them out, and as these were bought by local brokers who hope to turn them over at a profit, they naturally are very reticent.

HONGKONG QUOTATIONS.

HONGKONG, 30th December, 1904

Beans	\$3 @ 3½
Borax	\$15 @ 16
Camphor (China)	\$110
(Formosa)	\$120
Cassia (First quality)	\$21
(Second ")	\$14
" Oil	\$160 @ 165
Cloves	\$20 @ 42
Fennel Seed Oil	\$330 @ 340
Galangle	\$
Glue	\$14
Grapes	\$25
Ivory	\$200 @ 650
Kismiss	\$17 @ 18
Olibanum	\$5 @ 20
Rosa Oil	\$60 @ 180
Saltpetre	\$10 @ 11
Sandal wood	\$27 @ 28
Oil	\$300 @ 400
Senna Leaves	\$2 @ 9
Sugar Candy	\$13 @ 14
Vermilion	\$75 @ 80
Wax	\$80 @ 83

MISCELLANEOUS EXPORTS.

Per steamer *Diomed*, for Amsterdam, London and Antwerp, sailed on 21st December. For London:—4 cases bristles, 141 packages chinaware, 141 packages effects, etc., 1,937 rolls matting, 31 cases cigars, 17 cases hats, 50 boxes essential oil, 375 cases ginger, 118 bales canes, 65 cases fans, &c. For London or Glasgow:—250 cases preserves, 150 casks preserves. For London or Liverpool or Glasgow:—25 casks preserves. For London or "anchester:—100 bales waste silk. For London or Continent:—50 casks ginger, 869 bales canes, 40 rolls matting, 144 bales feathers, 10 bales human hair. For Copenhagen:—250 cases cassia, 50 rolls matting, 19 bales canes. For Amsterdam:—520 rolls matting, 50 casks preserves. For Amsterdam or Rotterdam:—50 cases cassia, 35 cases ginger. For Antwerp or Hamburg:—34 bales feathers. For Antwerp or Rotterdam: 18 bales canes.

Per steamer *Ningchow*, for Genoa, Marseilles, Havre and Liverpool, sailed on 23rd December. For Suez:—107 cases cassia, &c. For Trieste:—900 bales canes. For Odessa:—700 cases cassia, 50 cases aniseed, 200 bales chinarrowt. For Constantinople:—30 cases cassia. For Trebizon:—20 cases cassia. For Marseilles:—284 bales waste silk, 20 boxes essential oil, 49 packages human hair, 100 cases cassia, 355 rolls matting. For Marseilles or Barcelona:—220 cases cassia. For Marseilles or Havre:—40 packages human hair, 20 cases essential oil, 175 cases gallnuts. For Havre:—22 bales human hair, 102 cases chinaware, &c., 50 cases staraniseed, 200 bales canes, 8,819 rolls matting. For Liverpool:—46 bales jute rugs, &c., 530 cases curios, plants, &c., 350 bales hemp, 5 cases cigars, 250 bales waste silk, 10 cases essential oil, 100 packages Chinese goods, &c., 100 bales mats. For Manchester:—300 bales waste silk. For Buenos Ayres:—647 packages tea.

Per P. & O. steamer *Bengal*, sailed on 31st Dec. For London:—8 cases hats, 100 bales canes. For Hamburg and Glasgow:—1 case curios, 1 case curios and clothing, 10 cases vermillion, 1 case private effects, 2 cases cigarettes, 8 cases silks, 2 packages old documents, 2 packages furniture. For Lyons:—199 bales raw silk. For Marseilles:—100 bales raw silk, 3 cases pongees, 100 bales waste silk. For Manchester:—150 bales silk.

Per P. & O. steamer *Socotra*, sailed on 4th Jan. For Hamburg:—11 bales feathers. For London:—9 packages camphor, 1 brl. camphor oil, 1 case hair, 5 packages private effects, cigars, and silk.

AMOY CUSTOMS RETURNS.

DECEMBER 28TH, 1904. List of the principal goods passed through the Amoy Custom House from 17th December to 23rd December 4 p.m., 1904:—

IMPORTS.

Goods	QUANTITY
Cotton Raw, Indian	pls. 371
" Native	" 3,178
Shirtings, Grey	pcs. 2,701
T-Cloths	" 3,911
Shirtings, White	" 2,520
T. Red Shirtings	" 427
Drills	" 6
Shirtings Dyed, Brocades	" 870
Dyed	" 541
Damasks	" 54
Camlets	" 87
Lasting	" 30
Spanish Stripes	yds. 1,070
Lustres, Figured	" —
Lead, in pigs	pls. 42
Tin, in slabs	" 455
Iron, Nail rod	" 46
Quicksilver	" 2
Iron, Old	" 28
Ironwire	" 2
Rice	" 9,078
Opium, Patna	" —
Benares	" 42
Persia	" 32
Malwa	" —
Szechuan	" 18
Yunnan	" 13
Kiangsu	" —
Sesamum Seed	" 1,340
Sapanwood	" 82
Sandalwood	" 20
Rattans	" 65
Wheat	" 2,324
Flour	" 3,747
Beancake	" 3,211
Beans and Peas	" 84,383
Bicho de Mar	" 334
Mats Tea	lcs. 2,000
Oil, Kerosine American	gals. 105,000
Borneo in bulk	" —
" Russian	" —
" Sumatra	" —
" Bulk	" 117,525
Coal	tons. —
Tobacco Leaf	pls. 557
Vermicelli	" 320

EXPORTS

Goods.	QUANTITY
Sugar, White	pls. —
" Brown	" 145
" Candy	" 141
Hemp Bags	pcs. 6,000
Sacking	" 7,500
Paper I Quality	pls. 1,040
II	" 310
Tobacco, Prepared	" 879
Kittysols (umbrellas)	pcs. 5,580

EXCHANGE.

MONDAY, 9th January.

ON LONDON.—	Telegraphic Transfer	1/11 $\frac{1}{2}$
	Bank Bills, on demand	1/11 $\frac{1}{2}$
	Bank Bills, at 30 days' sight	1/11 $\frac{1}{2}$
	Bank Bills, at 4 months' sight	1/11 $\frac{1}{2}$
	Credits, at 4 months' sight	1/11 $\frac{1}{2}$
	Documentary Bills, 4 months' sight	1/11 $\frac{1}{2}$
ON PARIS.—	Bank Bills, on demand	245 $\frac{1}{2}$
	Credits 4 months' sight	249
ON GERMANY.—	On demand	199 $\frac{1}{2}$
ON NEW YORK.—	Bank Bills, on demand	47 $\frac{1}{2}$
	Credits 60 days' sight	48 $\frac{1}{2}$
ON BOMBAY.—	Telegraphic Transfer	145 $\frac{1}{2}$
	Bank, on demand	145 $\frac{1}{2}$
ON CALCUTTA.—	Telegraphic Transfer	145 $\frac{1}{2}$
	Bank, on demand	145 $\frac{1}{2}$
ON SHANGHAI.—	Bank, at sight	71 $\frac{1}{2}$
	Private, 30 days' sight	72 $\frac{1}{2}$
ON YOKOHAMA.—	On demand	96
ON MANILA.—	On demand	94 $\frac{1}{2}$
ON SINGAPORE.—	On demand	1 p.c. pm.
ON BATAVIA.—	On demand	117 $\frac{1}{2}$
ON HAIPHONG.—	On demand	1 p.c. pm.
ON SAIGON.—	On demand	par
ON BANGKOK.—	On demand	6 $\frac{1}{2}$
SOVEREIGNS, Bank's Buying Rate	\$10.15
GOLD LEAF, 1/- fine, per tael	£54.00
GAESILVER, per oz.	27 $\frac{1}{2}$

SHARE REPORT.

HONGKONG, 6th January, 1905.—Our market has ruled dull and lifeless since the opening after the few Year holidays, the only feature being a slight advance in the market value of Docks, and a firmer feeling in regard to Hongkong Fires which show a tendency to advance.

BANKS.—Hongkong and Shanghais close firm with probable buyers at \$710. London quotes £71. Nationals have sold at the reduced rate of £38.

MAKING INSURANCES.—Unions continue in request at \$690, China Traders at \$58. North Chinas are easier with sellers at Tls. 96. Yangtszes and Cantons are unchanged and without business.

FIRE INSURANCES.—Hongkongs have been booked at \$330 and \$32 $\frac{1}{2}$, and are now enquired for at \$335. Chinas are also firmer with sales and further buyers at \$91.

SHIPPING.—Hongkong, Canton and Macaos are somewhat weaker with sales at \$27 $\frac{1}{2}$ and \$27 and further sellers at the former rate. Indo-Chinas, after sales at \$128 $\frac{1}{2}$, \$128, and \$127 $\frac{1}{2}$, close with sellers at \$127, Shanghai quoting Tls. 88. China and Manilas continue on offer at \$23. Douglas's have sold and close steady at \$33 $\frac{1}{2}$. Star Ferries (old) have receded to \$38 sellers, the new issue remaining as before at \$29 sellers. Shell Transports have been placed at 25/- ex the dividend of 1/- per share (Coupon No. 5) payable on the 1st instant, and further shares are procurable at this rate.

REFINERIES.—China Sugars have ruled dull, and the rate has receded to \$225 sellers. Luzons close firm at \$16 buyers.

MINING.—No business has transpired under this head, and we have only to report a further decline in Raubs to \$3 $\frac{1}{2}$ sellers.

DOCKS, WHARVES, AND GODOWNS.—Hongkong and Whampoa Docks have attracted some attention during the interval, and sales are reported at \$218, \$29 and \$229, the market closing with a few shares obtainable at the latter rate. Hongkong and Kowloon Wharves continue firm, and shares are enquired for at \$12 cum new issue. Farnhams have suffered a sharp reaction and are now quoted at Tls. 155 ex the dividend of Tls. 5 per share payable in Shanghai to-day.

LANDS, HOTELS, AND BUILDINGS.—Hongkong Lands are easier with sellers at \$146.

Kowloon Lands and West Points are unchanged and without business. Hongkong Hotels are procurable at \$143 $\frac{1}{2}$, and Humphreys' Estate at \$12 $\frac{1}{2}$ and \$12 for the old and new issues respectively. Shanghai Lands are steady at Tls. 117.

COTTON MILLS.—Ewos have declined in the North to Tls. 150. Hongkongs are also easier with local sellers at \$13 $\frac{1}{2}$.

MISCELLANEOUS.—Green Island Cements have been booked at \$29 $\frac{1}{2}$. Electrics (old) have been booked and are in further request at \$15. South China Morning Posts are firmer with buyers at \$22. Watsons (new) are wanted at \$12 and Powells at \$12 $\frac{1}{2}$.

Closing quotations are as follows:—

COMPANY.	PAID UP.	QUOTATIONS.
Banks—		
Hongkong & S'hai...	\$125	{ \$710 L'don, £71.10s.
Natl. Bank of China		
A. Shares	£8	\$38, sales
B. Shares	£8	\$38, sales
Foun. Shares...	£1	\$10
Insurance—		
Union	\$100	\$690, buyers
China Traders	\$25	\$58, buyers
North China	£5	Tls. 96, sellers
Yangtsze	\$60	\$150
Canton	\$50	\$250
Hongkong Fire	\$50	\$335, buyers
China Fire	\$20	\$91, sales & buyers
Steamship Coys.—		
H., Canton and M...	£15	\$27, sellers
Indo-China S. N. ...	£10	\$127, buyers
China and Manila...	£50	\$23, sellers
Douglas Steamship	£50	\$33 $\frac{1}{2}$, sales & buy.
Star Ferry	\$10	\$38, sellers
Shell Transport and	£1	25/- ex div.
Trading Co.		
Do. pref. shares....	£10	£8. 10s.
Refineries—		
China Sugar	\$100	\$225, sellers
Luzon Sugar	\$100	\$16, buyers
Mining—		
Charbonnages	Fcs. 250	\$490
Raubs	18/10d.	\$3 $\frac{1}{2}$, sellers
Docks, Etc.—		
H. & W. Dock	£50	\$210, sellers
H. & K. Wharf & G.	£50	\$112, c. n. issue buy.
New Amoy Dock ...	£6 $\frac{1}{2}$	\$27, sellers
S. C. F. Boyd & Co.	Tls. 100	Tls. 155 ex div. buy.
Land and Building—		
Hongkong Land Inv	\$100	\$146, sellers
Kowloon Land & B.	\$30	\$38
West Point Building	\$50	\$58, sellers
Hongkong Hotel	\$50	\$144, sellers
Humphreys Estate.	\$10	\$12 $\frac{1}{2}$, sellers
S'hai Land Ins. Co. Ltd.	\$2 $\frac{1}{2}$	\$12, sellers
Cotton Mills—	Tls. 50	Tls. 117
Ewo	Tls. 50	Tls. 25, buyers
International	Tls. 75	Tls. 25
Laot Kung Mow ...	Tls. 100	Tls. 30
Soychee	Tls. 500	Tls. 150, sellers
Hongkong	\$10	\$13 $\frac{1}{2}$, sellers
Companies—		
Alhambra Limited...	\$200	\$100, buyers
Bell's Asbestos E. A.	12/6	\$5 $\frac{1}{2}$
Campbell, Moore & Co.	\$10	\$40, buyers
China-Borneo Co., Ltd.	\$12	\$13 $\frac{1}{2}$, buyers
China Prov. L. & M.	\$10	\$9 $\frac{1}{2}$, sellers
Dairy Farm	\$6	\$13, sellers
Geo. Fenwick & Co.	\$25	\$45, sellers
Green Island Cement	\$10	\$29 $\frac{1}{2}$, sales
Hongkong Electric	\$10	\$15, sales & buyers
Hongkong & C. Gas...	\$5	\$9, buyers
H. H. L. Tramways...	£10	\$160, buyers
Hongkong Ice	\$100	\$265
Hongkong Rope.....	\$25	\$255, sellers
Hk. Steam Water-?	\$50	\$155
Boat Co., Ltd.....	\$10	\$20, sellers
Philippine Tobacco?	\$	

SHIPPING.

ARRIVALS AND DEPARTURES SINCE LAST MAIL.

December— ARRIVALS.

- 30, Bengal, British str., from Shanghai.
30, Cincinnati, U.S. cruiser, from Cavite.
30, Courtfield, British str., from Durban.
30, Ilford, British str., from Moji.
30, Korea, American str., from San Francisco.
30, Mathilde, German str., from Tourane.
30, Needles, British str., from Samarang.
30, Taming, British str., from Manila.
30, Wuhu, British str., from Chinkiang.
31, Armenia, German str., from Shanghai.
31, Centurion, British battleship, from W'wei.
31, Coromandel, British str., from Bombay.
31, Decima, German str., from Aping.
31, Deucalion, British str., from Puget Sound.
31, Haiching, British str., from Swatow.
31, Hogue, British str., from Davenport.
31, Kwangping, British str., from Haiphong.
31, Loksang, British str., from Canton.
31, Nicomedia, German str., from Portland.
31, Ocean, British battleship, from Weihsien.
31, Pitsanulok, German str., from Swatow.
31, Triumph, German str., from Coast Ports.

January—

- 1, Amara, British str., from Saigon.
1, Derwent, British str., from Saigon.
1, Diu, Portuguese gunboat, from Macao.
1, Eiger, Norwegian str., from Chinkiang.
1, Haimun, British str., from Amoy.
1, Hupeh, British str., from Wuhu.
1, Kansu, British str., from Moji.
1, Kwangtah, Chinese str., from Shanghai.
1, Loongmoon, German str., from Shanghai.
1, Pollux, Norwegian str., from Bisuki.
1, Prinz Waldemar, Dan. str., from Sydney.
1, Tyr, Norwegian str., from Canton.
1, Yatshing, British str., from Chinkiang.
1, Yuensang, British str., from Manila.
2, Arcadia, German str., from Hamburg.
2, Cheangchew, British str., from Singapore.
2, Choyssang, British str., from Shanghai.
2, Feiching, Chinese str., from Shanghai.
2, Fooshing, British str., from Chinkiang.
2, Hailan, French str., from Pakhoi.
2, Iphigenia, British cruiser, from Shanghai.
2, Keongwai, German str., from Bangkok.
2, Kweilin, British str., from Canton.
2, Priam, British str., from Liverpool.
2, Taiyuan, British str., from Melbourne.
2, Tolv, Norwegian str., from Bangkok.
2, Zafiro, British str., from Manila.
3, Algoa, British str., from San Francisco.
3, Apenrade, German str., from Haiphong.
3, Chowtai, German str., from Bangkok.
3, Chunsang, British str., from Wuhu.
3, Eastry, British str., from Moji.
3, Elg, Norwegian str., from Manila.
3, Hongkong, French str., from Haiphong.
3, Kensington, British str., from Callao.
3, Kish, British str., from Moji.
3, Pura Nang, German str., from Bangkok.
3, Proteus, Norwegian str., from Manila.
3, Seydlitz, German str., from Yokohama.
3, Socotra, British str., from Yokohama.
3, Stanley Dollar, British str., from Moji.
3, Takasang, British str., from Chinkiang.
4, Bayern, German str., from Bremen.
4, C. Diedrichsen, Ger. str., from Haiphong.
4, C. Apcar, British str., from Calcutta.
4, Clara Jebsen, Ger. str., from Chinkiang.
4, Hailoong, British str., from Tamsui.
4, Hanoi, French str., from Haiphong.
4, Helene, German str., from Swatow.
4, Kiukiang, British str., from Chinkiang.
4, Kweiyang, British str., from Wuhu.
4, Moyune, British str., from Japan.
4, Roselay, British str., from Barry.
5, Anapa, British str., from Philadelphia.
5, Beaufort, British str., from Shanghai.
5, Lethington, British str., from Cardiff.
5, M. Struve, German str., from Tamsui.
5, Tremont, American str., from Shanghai.
5, Unda, Norwegian str., from Moji.
5, Willehad, German str., from Kobe.
5, Szechuen, British str., from Wuhu.
5, Tsintau, German str., from Bangkok.
5, Volante, British str., from Palembang.
6, Australian, British str., from Kobe.
6, Glaucon, British str., from Liverpool.
6, Hong Bee, British str., from Singapore.
6, Hai Ping, British str., from Haiphong.
6, Kaifong, British str., from Cebu.
6, Promise, Norwegian str., from Bangkok.
6, Signal, German str., from Bangkok.
6, Woosung, British str., from Shanghai.

- 6, Wray Castle, British str., from Liverpool.
7, Borneo, German str., from Sandakan.
7, Bucentaur, British str., from London.
7, M. Rickmers, German str., from Bangkok.
7, Purnea, British str., from Rangoon.
7, Teau, British str., from Manila.
7, Themis, Norwegian str., from Kobe.
7, Waihara, British str., from Singapore.
7, Wongkoi, German str., from Bangkok.
7, Yushun, Chinese str., from Chefoo.
8, Benlarig, British str., from London.
8, Canton, German str., from Chefoo.
8, Dumbaa, French str., from Shanghai.
8, Freja, Norwegian str., from Penarth.
8, Holstein, German str., from Haiphong.
8, Indrasamha, British str., from Manila.
8, Paklat, German str., from Bangkok.
8, Petarch, German str., from Port Louis.
December— DEPARTURES.
- 30, Anping, Chinese str., for Canton.
30, Bourbon, French str., for Saigon.
30, Chowfa, German str., for Bangkok.
30, Haitan, British str., for Coast Ports.
34, Hanyang, British str., for Canton.
30, Holstein, German str., for Haiphong.
30, Kamor, Norwegian str., for Chinkiang.
30, Kweilin, British str., for Canton.
30, Loongsang, British str., for Manila.
30, Shimosa, British str., for Singapore.
30, Vengeance, British b'ship, for Mire Bay.
31, Bengal, British str., for Europe.
31, Else, German str., for Haiphong.
31, Gisela, Austrian str., for Singapore.
31, Hsieh-Ho, Chinese str., for Shanghai.
31, Machew, German str., for Swatow.
31, Oscar II, Norwegian str., for K'chinotzu.
31, Rubi, British str., for Manila.
31, Tetartos, German str., for Tsingtau.
31, Wuhu, British str., for Canton.
- January—
- 1, Acme, British ship, for Baltimore.
1, Ailsa Craig, British str., for Moji.
1, Coromandel, British str., for Shanghai.
1, Decima, German str., for Swatow.
1, Frithjof, Norwegian str., for Swatow.
1, Inuk, British str., for Durbin.
1, Kohsichang, German str., for Bangkok.
1, Prince Robert, British str., for Rangoon.
1, Sishan, British str., for Shanghai.
1, Talisman, German str., for Bangkok.
2, Hupeh, British str., for Canton.
2, Kwangtah, Chinese str., for Canton.
2, Loksang, British str., for Shanghai.
2, Loongmoou, German str., for Canton.
2, Yatshing, British str., for Manila.
3, Taming, British str., for Manila.
3, Deucalion, British str., for London.
4, Armeua, German str., for Hamburg.
4, Belvoir King, British str., for Shanghai.
4, Carl Menzell, German str., for Chinkiang.
4, Dr. H. J. Kier, Norw. str., for Haiphong.
4, Feiching, Chinese str., for Shanghai.
4, Glenlogan, British str., for Shanghai.
4, Heilan, French str., for Hoihow.
4, Haimun, British str., for Coast Ports.
4, Mathilde, German str., for Haiphong.
4, Needles, British str., for Rangoon.
4, Priam, British str., for Shanghai.
4, Prinz Waldemar, Danish str., for Kobe.
4, Seydlitz, German str., for Europe.
4, Socotra, British str., for London.
4, Sperber, German gunboat, for Pakhoi.
4, Triumph, German str., for Swatow.
4, Tyr, Norwegian str., for Hongay.
4, Yuensang, British str., for Manila.
5, A. Rickmers, German str., for Bangkok.
5, Arcadia, British str., for Shanghai.
5, Ardova, British str., for Kobe.
5, Cheangchew, British str., for Amoy.
5, Hanyang, British str., for Shanghai.
5, Kweiyang, British str., for Canton.
5, Laisang, British str., for Calcutta.
5, Linan, British str., for Shanghai.
5, Moynne, British str., for Sourabaya.
5, Roseley, British str., for Shanghai.
5, Thetis, British cruiser, for Singapore.
6, Apenrade, German str., for Haiphong.
6, Bayern, German str., for Shanghai.
6, Benlém, British str., for London.
6, Clara Jebsen, German str., for Canton.
6, Hongkong, French str., for Haiphong.
6, Kiukiang, British str., for Canton.
6, Korea, American str., for San Francisco.
6, Kweilin, British str., for Shanghai.
6, Lethington, French str., for Shanghai.
6, Paoting, British str., for Shanghai.
6, Szechuen, British str., for Canton.
6, Taiyuan, British str., for Kobe.

- 7, Amara, British str., for Singapore.
7, Anping, Chinese str., for Shanghai.
7, Haiching, British str., for Coast Ports.
7, Hang-ang, British str., for Shanghai.
7, Hanoi, French str., for Haiphong.
7, Hupeh, British str., for Shanghai.
7, Kish, British str., fog Rangoon.
7, Mansang, British str., for Kudat.
7, Pollux, Norwegian str., for Samarang.
7, Willehad, German str., for Guinea.
7, Tingsang, British str., for Shanghai.
7, Wuhu, British str., for Shanghai.
7, Zafiro, British str., for Manila.
8, Bucentaur, British str., for Nagasaki.
8, Courtfield, British str., for Durban.
8, Glaucus, British str., for Shanghai.
8, Hailoong, British str., for Swatow.
8, Hong Bee, British str., for Amoy.
8, Keongwai, German str., for Bangkok.
8, M. Struve, German str., for Swatow.
8, Telemachus, British str., for Saigon.
8, Wray Castle, British str., for Nagasaki.

PASSENGER LIST.

ARRIVED.

Per Bengal, from Shanghai, for Hongkong.
Mr. E. D. Merrill, Miss Page, Messrs. H. C. Waroad, H. Sheppard, C. A. Cooke, R. D. Quintas, Rouse, Beavis, Warre, N. H. Bramwell and E. W. Lawson; for Singapore, Messrs. Goodrick and H. Mace; for Penang, Mr. Alex. Mackie.

Per Coromandel, for Hongkong, from London, Mr. and Miss. A. Robertson, Messrs. G. G. Franklin, R. E. Sedgwick and N. P. Dudley, Miss Lindsay, Inspr. Lawrence, Lce.-Corpl. E. Brazil, Lce.-Corpl. E. Brown, Lce.-Corpl. M. Earner, Lce.-Corpl. J. Senaghan, Constable Mackenzie, Sergeants Cashman and Davitt, Mrs. Brazil, Qr.-Mr.-Sergeant and Mrs. Shirley, child and infant, Mrs. Lock, children and infants, Messrs. R. O. Hutchinson and D. W. Traiman, Mrs. T. A. Webster, Mrs. McLaughlin and child, Mrs. Burd and child, Mrs. Hodgson, Mrs. Harris, children and infant, and Rev. J. Steele; from Marseilles, Messrs. W. W. Hutton Potts, E. Dickenson, C. Allison, Mr. and Mrs. Fox; from Bombay, Mr. Bhishankar; from Singapore, Mr. and Mrs. Robertson and 2 children, Mr. W. Ker; for Shanghai, from London, Mr. J. N. McLaren, Mr. and Mrs. Milligan, Miss Cran, and Mr. France; from Marseilles, Messrs. J. E. Hanson, J. Needham, Mr. W. J. Mayson; from Brindisi, Messrs. Pinder and Yohl; from Singapore, Miss Moller, Messrs. Greenfield, S. Kog, D. Ringman and S. M. Shields; for Yokohama, from Bombay, Mr. and Mrs. Dennis.

DEPARTED.

Per Bengal, from Hongkong, for Singapore, Misses Murke and Merryless, and Mr. Wm. Schmidt; for Penang, Mr. A. Stephen; for Bombay, Messrs. S. D. Setna and J. Mahomed; for Calcutta, Mr. O. Sullivan; for Brindisi, Messrs. Wm. W. Borden, W. C. Erdman, Mr. and Mrs. J. B. Oakley; for Marseilles, Misses C. C. Chaplin, Edna Chaplin, F. Lillian Allan and Helen Cockshut and Mr. J. Russell McLaren; for London, Mr. and Mrs. Bain, Misses Bain (2), Mr. Peter Coyle, Lieut. Comdr. R. N. Keate, R.N., Mr. W. A. Harvey, Mrs. M. W. Sewall, Mrs. J. W. Horne, Mr. and Mrs. A. J. Bul, Rev. and Mrs. J. Cumming Brown, Lieut. R. C. Davenport, R.N., Lieut. H. P. Boyd, R.N., Messrs. E. Brindle, Geo. Howell and J. H. Vance; from Shanghai, for Singapore, Messrs. Goodrick and H. Mace; for Penang, Mr. Alex. Mackie.

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